




Speech By
Ann Leahy

MEMBER FOR WARREGO

Record of Proceedings, 14 September 2023

TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT

Motion, to Take Note

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (3.33 pm): I will be very interested to take that contribution by the member for Logan out to my electorate tomorrow. They will be very interested in Roma to read about what he has said in relation to this transitional renewable energy. Cows do not fit too well underneath solar panels.

Mr POWER: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This is completely misleading. I said sheep and the trial is about sheep. I am willing to provide details to the member, who is completely ignorant about this. I find it personally insulting and I ask her to withdraw.

Mr HART: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Warrego did not mention the member for Logan. In fact she said that cows do not fit under solar panels, which is true.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): I will get advice in silence. Member for Logan, there is no point of order.

Mr POWER: Madam Deputy Speaker, I found the member's comments about me personally insulting and I would like them to be withdrawn.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Warrego, the member takes offence. Do you withdraw?

Ms LEAHY: I withdraw. I rise to contribute to the debate on report No. 26 of the Transport and Resources Committee titled *Examination of Auditor-General Report 5: 2021-22—Managing Queensland's transition to renewable energy*. I thank the committee members for their consideration of the Auditor-General's report. The Auditor-General's report made a number of observations about the shortcomings of the government's targets and measures. In June 2017, the Queensland government committed to the renewable energy target that 50 per cent of all energy consumed in Queensland must come from renewable sources, such as sunlight, wind and water, by 2030. The Department of Energy and Public Works is responsible for managing Queensland's energy policy.

The Auditor-General examined the department's management of the transition to renewable energy. The Auditor-General's report outlines the failings of the Palaszczuk Labor government to manage this transition. With all the crisis and chaos coming from the Labor government, they have lost focus on their management of this transition. When it came to measuring the target set by the department, the Auditor-General's report states there is limited information on how the target is measured. The department sets out the renewable energy target and its estimated performance in its annual service delivery statements, but these do not describe how the department treats various elements of this calculation. For example, they do not define how the department includes energy

imports or exports of energy from domestic solar and other small-scale renewable generators in the renewable energy calculations. We see some of those small-scale renewable energy generators across regional Queensland.

Most of Queensland's renewable generation is from solar; it is from rooftops. The report states that, when rooftops are combined with large-scale solar generation, this represents about 67 per cent of all renewable generation in Queensland. The timing of that generation from solar does not align with when demand for energy is at its highest.

As per usual, this Labor government like to talk big but they are very scant on detail and delivery. Their big talk does not take into account the impact on local governments and their communities—the roads, the water supplies, the prime agricultural land, the housing pressures and the labour shortages. What will become of this infrastructure at the end of its life? Will it be the responsibility of the landowner? Will it be the responsibility of the actual proponent? Will it be the responsibility of the community? It does not deal with what happens to these projects at the end of their life.

Just last week I was with the member for Callide meeting with the Banana Shire Council and talking to them about how they are managing the impacts of solar and wind projects in their council area. When there is a hail storm or a lightning strike, what happens to the disposal of the solar panels?

Mr Head: They'll recycle them in Callide.

Ms LEAHY: I will take that interjection. They will recycle them and they are certainly looking at that in Callide because they cannot go to local government landfills. These landfills are not equipped to handle that waste, nor should the ratepayers have to bear the cost of this disposal. They are quite susceptible in many areas to lightning strikes and they are also susceptible to hail storms. They should not go into council landfill. Like the member for Callide said, there should be some way of recycling them. In my electorate tomorrow there is a public information session on how wind projects may affect landholders in the Maranoa Regional Council. At this public meeting there will be discussion on how wind farm approvals are made and how wind farming affects land and council rates. That is going to be a very interesting discussion with that community.

Prior to this meeting, a concerned landholder, Jack, who has been seeking some answers from the state Labor government in relation to the wind and solar projects, wrote that, as a taxpayer, he is entitled to answers. He would like to know how much money does the Queensland state government pay in subsidies to the renewable energy projects each year? More specifically, how much do they pay in subsidies to the wind farm companies per turbine or per megawatt each year, and how much in subsidies does the state government pay to the solar farm companies per megawatt each year?