



Speech By  
**James Martin**


**MEMBER FOR STRETTON**

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**TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Report, Motion to Take Note**

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (3.36 pm): I rise to speak to the Transport and Resources Committee report No. 26, *Examination of Auditor-General report 5: 2021-22: Managing Queensland's transition to renewable energy*. It is certainly a very interesting report and an exciting time in Queensland as we move towards 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030. I am proud to be part of a government that is taking its obligations to tackle climate change seriously.

Back in 2015 the government first committed to investigating a renewable energy target of 50 per cent by 2030 and in 2017 we formally committed to this target. Our goals remain the same: to reduce emissions but also, while we are doing that, to create new jobs and, importantly, to diversify the Queensland economy so we are ready for the future. That is exactly what we are doing. It was great to hear from representatives from departments about the progress and plans to achieve this. It is all contained within our very exciting Energy and Jobs Plan. This means a few things. It means cleaner energy in solar, wind, batteries, hydrogen, biofuels—the future of which is exciting—and electric vehicles. It also means cheaper power bills. Importantly, as has been mentioned, all of this will remain in public ownership. It is so important that we own our energy-generating assets. It will also create jobs, estimated to be 100,000 good quality, well-paid jobs.

Something that is very exciting is that right here in Queensland we will be building the world's biggest pumped hydro, a fantastic project. It will mean baseload power for two million homes. Included in that will be all the major upgrades that are required for the grid that will be needed to transmit that energy around the state. This plan represents real action on climate change. It sets out how Queensland can meet and beat its 50 per cent renewable target. When compared to the other states, it represents the biggest commitment to renewable energy in Australian history. Only by making the transition to a clean energy economy will we cut our electricity system emissions to meet the targets that we need to meet.

Since 2015 we have seen about 50 large-scale renewable energy projects that are operating, under construction or in the stages of being financially committed to. That is more than \$10 billion worth of investment for around 8,000 jobs, over 5,700 megawatts of clean energy and more than 13.8 million tonnes of avoided emissions annually. It will continue to position Queensland as a renewable energy superpower. It is all about clean, reliable and affordable energy for generations for Queenslanders. It is not just for those of us living today but also for the generations that will come after these pumped hydros are built. It is about turbocharging new investment and about new minerals, batteries and manufacturing. Some of the key highlights include the two pumped hydros at Pioneer-Burdekin and Borumba and a new Queensland SuperGrid to connect solar, wind, battery and hydrogen generators across the state. Certainly it will be a big job, but it is so important for future generations.

It will unlock 22 gigawatts of new large-scale renewable capacity, compared to about four gigawatts today. Members can see the massive jump we are heading towards. It will provide 100,000 new jobs by 2040 including 64,000 to build the SuperGrid and 36,000 more in key sectors all around the economy. Importantly, part of this is about solar, which has also been mentioned before: 11.5 gigawatts of rooftop solar and six gigawatts of embedded batteries and Queensland's first hydrogen-ready gas turbine—something also very exciting that I know industry is looking forward to.

In relation to rooftop solar, there are a number of ways we are currently working to build on our solid track record of renewable energy growth. The nation's biggest power station, as members would know, is Queensland's rooftops. Queensland is a world leader in rooftop solar. One in three households are using rooftop solar systems. They supply up to 40 per cent of generation. We expect to see continued growth in rooftop solar and customer energy systems such as household batteries and electric vehicles.