




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Renewable Energy

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (2.52 pm): One after the other, opposition members have talked about the last 12 months but there is one thing they have not mentioned that I absolutely will: our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. One year on—just 12 months later—it is delivering investment and jobs and it is putting downward pressure on power prices in Queensland. We have led the nation when it comes to the connection of new solar farms, with 183 megawatts. We are also leading the nation when it comes to the connection of new wind farms, with another 128 megawatts. We are now powering Queensland, with over one-quarter of our power coming from renewables—an increase of over 20 per cent in the past 12 months alone.

Recently, the Australian Energy Market Operator confirmed that Queensland has the most reliable energy system of all mainland states in the National Electricity Market. It also confirmed that our wholesale power prices have dropped 71 per cent because of our nation-leading increase in wind and solar energy, which is the cheapest form of energy. In fact, under the Palaszczuk Labor government we have seen 52 new large-scale wind and solar projects, which represents over \$11 billion worth of investment. That has delivered over 8½ thousand jobs in construction alone, with the majority of those being in regional Queensland.

We are producing over six gigawatts of renewable energy, which is abating 14.5 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions per year. That is the result of the deliberate decisions we have made: continued public ownership; more renewables, which is the cheapest form of energy; and the largest cost-of-living package in the nation that includes electricity rebates of \$550 for households and \$1,072 for concession card holders and seniors as well as cashback rebates on energy-efficient appliances. The really exciting part is that we are only getting started. Over the next four years we will be investing more than \$19 billion in publicly owned energy and we have over \$160 billion worth of investment in the pipeline when it comes to wind, solar and batteries.

All of that is at risk under the LNP. We know that public ownership is going to be at risk because they will sell off our energy assets, just as they tried to do last time. Workers will be at risk because they will be sacked, just like they were last time, including from Swanbank in my Bundamba community. The LNP's recently released 'wrong priorities' document did not contain one dollar of direct cost-of-living relief. It is more of a brochure that is trying to parade as a policy document. It states, 'An LNP Government will prioritise structural cost-of-living relief for Queenslanders.' They will prioritise 'structural cost-of-living relief' but gives not one dollar of direct support for Queenslanders in the middle of a national cost-of-living crisis. In fact, the only policy that they have come out with, the only policy that they have owned up to in the past 12 months, has been to maintain power stations. Guess what: any power station that is part of the National Electricity Market has a legal requirement to do that, so it is not really a policy at all.

Queenslanders cannot trust the LNP. They have their secret plan for nuclear. They have refused to rule it out and their federal mates are pushing it right across the country. It is the most expensive form of energy that will drive up prices. They have not been open with Queenslanders about where they will put nuclear generators or where they will put the waste. Their federal counterparts are pushing a moratorium on renewables, which is the cheapest form of energy. Again, that would drive up prices.

The LNP cannot be trusted. You cannot even trust them when they come into this place and vote for something. They have no plans. They have no policies other than to play politics and, of course, to cut, sack and sell. Queensland will go backwards under the LNP. They are a dangerous risk to our otherwise bright future.