



Speech By  
**Patrick Weir**

**MEMBER FOR CONDAMINE**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 September 2023

**TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Report, Motion to Take Note**

Resumed from 24 August (see p. 2435), on motion of Mr King—

That the House take note of the Transport and Resources Committee Report No. 26, 57th Parliament, *Examination of Auditor-General Report 5: 2021-22—Managing Queensland's transition to renewable energy*, tabled on 5 December 2022.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (3.03 pm), continuing: I take up where I left off at the last sitting. If my memory serves me correctly, we were talking about how energy generation is reported. The Auditor-General's report made comment that while the department's Service Delivery Statements for 2020-21 showed an estimated actual of 20 per cent, the Audit Office thought it was more in the vicinity of 19 per cent. It stated that the department—

... does not include all non-renewable energy, for example diesel generation, that is generated outside the national market. Around 1,000 GWh of this type of energy was produced in Queensland in 2020

That is also valid today. Since New South Wales closed Liddell Power Station, we are exporting about 700 megawatts of energy into New South Wales as we speak. That is not being included in the figures for energy generation in Queensland, according to the Audit Office. That is a significant amount. That has increased dramatically since Liddell has closed down. That is almost a daily occurrence. The report goes on to say that the main generator in this state at the time of the report—which, as I stated, is getting quite old now—is rooftop solar at 40 per cent. I would say that it is considerably higher than 40 per cent now because rooftop solar continues to grow.

We attempted to prosecute this issue at estimates. The department is saying renewable energy generation is at 20 per cent and, if I recall correctly, the minister said at estimates it is 25 per cent, but over what period is that? Is that over a three-month period? Is that over a four-month period? Is it a snapshot in time? In the middle of the day we are generating a lot of renewable energy, but once the sun sets we are at about 65 per cent coal and gas. The Audit Office made comment on those figures. I think that is fair enough.

The emails I am getting regarding energy at the moment are mainly about the impact on landowners of some of the renewable energy projects. I remember well when the coal seam gas industry was rolled out in this state and the impact that had on landowners. There had to be a number of guidelines and checks and balances put in place around that. The GasFields Commission was put in place. The regional plans were done. The Office of Groundwater Impact Assessment was established. This was done to try to give some certainty for landowners that they would have skin in the game when the projects came onto their land. I think we are fast approaching that time in Queensland with renewable energy projects. The impact is going to be significant and, once again, it is going to be in regional Queensland. They are not just impacting landowners. We are seeing that a large wind farm in North Queensland is going to have a significant environmental impact. That also needs to be taken into account.

The targets at the moment also do not include what we are going to need to produce green hydrogen. That is going to put our generation through the roof. We need firm figures around the impact of that.