




Speech By
Shane King

MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH

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TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (3.17 pm): I move—

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.

I rise today to speak to the committee's report titled *Examination of Auditor-General report 5: 2021-22: Managing Queensland's transition to renewable energy*. I want to start by thanking the committee members and secretariat staff for our excellent and their excellent work on this report. It has been a very busy time and the commitment put into all of our inquiries and reports is really appreciated.

Secondly, I want to say how proud I am to be part of the Palaszczuk Labor government acting on climate change in Queensland. Our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan released in September last year takes our commitment to clean energy even further, with a new Renewable Energy Target of 70 per cent by 2032 and 80 per cent by 2035.

Let's quickly recap how we got there. In 2016, we appointed the Renewable Energy Expert Panel to help set our goals and our plan to hit them. In 2017, we committed to the renewable energy target of 50 per cent by 2030. We are halfway there time-wise now and almost halfway to our initial target of 22.7 per cent of electricity used in Queensland produced from renewable energy sources. That was as at November last year.

In 2018, we established CleanCo, a government-opened corporation generating, developing and selling energy in Queensland. We have achieved the highest rate of household solar panels in the country with more than 700,000 homes and small businesses on board. We have put solar panels in schools to offset electricity costs and feed back to the grid. We have a Queensland Hydrogen Industry Strategy and millions of dollars invested in hydrogen projects and training facilities. We are building an electric vehicle superhighway and we are switching over to electric vehicles across government, including electric buses. We are developing an energy SuperGrid and renewable energy zones to capitalise on the varying climates across the state and to address the challenges of delivering services in our most remote communities. Altogether we have 50 large-scale renewable energy projects operating underway or with budgets allocated for a combined investment of over \$10 billion generating 8,000 construction jobs.

I have brought up the benefits of Wivenhoe Pumped Hydro storage a few times in here and I know the members opposite must love it. It is about the only thing that I can honestly thank Joh for. It is a great bit of gear. When the Callide Power Station failed in 2021, Wivenhoe ramped up to carry the load, as it was designed to do.

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr KING: Credit where credit is due, member for Burleigh. Now we are building the biggest pumped hydro project in the world at Borumba which will have the capacity to power two million homes when it is finished. We have guaranteed revenue on four large-scale solar projects to incentivise investors.

Our work in the renewable energy space has advanced since the Auditor-General made the recommendations we examined in this report, and the impacts of the war in Ukraine and COVID-19 have changed the national conversation. However, in fact, it is easier to report on our progress today thanks to some improvements our government made in following the recommendations. There were five recommendations, and I will outline them now for the benefit of the house.

Recommendations 1 and 2 were about achieving our renewable energy target, and the Energy and Jobs Plan certainly took care of that. Recommendations 3, 4 and 5 related to improving public reporting and were that the Department of Energy and Public Works publishes a detailed public statement of how Queensland's renewable energy target is defined and measured; and updates its calculations of progress against the target to fully account for all relevant renewable energy, such as small-scale renewable and non-renewable energy like diesel generation. The fifth recommendation was reporting of more information on actual renewable generation including, for example, the amount of energy generated from wind, solar and other sources, and the assumptions which support its renewable energy forecast. The Auditor-General noted that our renewable energy target calculation methodology included some energy that was being exported out of Queensland, thus should not be included in consumption rates, and missed some energy that was being generated by non-renewable sources. The difference at the time was around a one per cent deficit, and the methodology and definitions were refined as a result.

With regard to recommendation 5, while tracking every megawatt of energy production in real time is not an easy task, there is an abundance of information available on the department of energy's website. I encourage anyone with an interest in renewable energy to check out our interactive generation map. It is really worth a look. Our commitment to renewable energy is stronger than ever. This report has helped us along the way. It is a good read, and I commend it to the House.