




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MIRANI

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ADJOURNMENT

Renewable Energy

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (6.18 pm): According to last year's report from Construction Skills Queensland, Queensland will need up to 196 gigawatts of installed capacity in renewable capacity to meet the state's target. To put that into perspective, currently Queensland has installed capacity of 16.2 gigawatts in total energy generation—less than a quarter of that, 3.8 gigawatts, comes from renewables. That is two per cent of the amount needed to reach net zero. It is hard to see how any of this will be humanly possible, particularly when we think what it looks like to achieve the measly 3.8 gigawatts we have now. Enormous amounts of public moneys will be needed to make it happen—moneys that will have to be ripped out of other areas and redirected towards carpeting the regions in industrial grade wind and solar factories.

According to CSQ and CSIRO, this energy transition will cost Queenslanders as much as \$14 billion a year between now and 2050. As much as 96 per cent of this investment will be spread across three renewable zones. Central Queensland and Mackay will be ground zero. Investment in these two regions alone totals roughly \$27 billion, almost 40 per cent of the state's total spend. Planned projects for these regions stretch from giant wind and solar plants to hydrogen, renewables, manufacturing and fake food factories. Fully a quarter of Queensland's planned wind projects will be built in the Mackay region—that is 25 per cent of the state's wind developments—all located in one of the most unique and precious ecosystems in the country, not to mention some of the country's most productive farmland. In my electorate of Mirani, Andrew Forrest's Squadron Energy is in the process of building a \$3 billion wind farm at Clarke Creek 120 kilometres north of Rocky. On completion, it will reportedly be the single largest grid-connected renewable project in Australia.

Through Powerlink Queensland, the government will be spending \$365 million towards Central Queensland's grid reinforcement. This means constructing gigantic new transmission towers and thousands of kilometres of transmission lines across northern and central parts of the state. Do regional Queenslanders or traditional owners even begin to comprehend the impact all of this will have on land use in that area or the staggering amount of construction work it will take. According to QSC, a 13 per cent increase in construction workers will be needed. Where will these thousands of skilled workers come from? Bear in mind that 94 per cent of these jobs will be in regional Queensland, where there are already critical shortages of skilled workers across the board, not to mention a dire shortage of accommodation, affordable housing and hospital and education services—and just about every other service you can think of. We need to know what the government is going to do to overcome all of this, because at the moment we cannot even survive with what we have.