



Speech By  
**Hon. Dr Steven Miles**


**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA**

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## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

### **Barcaldine Renewable Energy Zone**

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure) (9.41 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government is transforming Queensland through the biggest infrastructure program in Queensland's history—our \$89 billion Big Build investment. Queensland's Big Build includes schools, hospitals, roads, the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. Our visionary Energy and Jobs Plan is giving business the confidence to expand their operations, or to come here and create more new jobs here.

We have always said that every part of Queensland will benefit from the clean, green revolution, and I am proud to share with the House today that the Palaszczuk government has allocated \$7 million to build the Barcaldine Renewable Energy Zone. The energy zone is an industrial precinct in Barcaldine which will be linked to a large-scale renewable energy precinct and provide manufacturing tenants with competitive, low-carbon electricity to create manufacturing jobs in Barcaldine. That includes enabling companies to establish new manufacturing facilities, making things like ammonia, hydrogen and urea, and processing minerals and making battery components. The funding is part of the Big Build and will go towards the cost of the common user infrastructure, including road access, water and sewerage infrastructure to support the establishment of factories in the precinct.

Earlier this year, I released the Queensland new-industry development strategy which aims to drive industrial and regional transformation in priority industries, including renewables. This investment is evidence that the Palaszczuk government is serious about growing new industries and making sure every part of Queensland benefits.

The Barcaldine renewable energy precinct will be developed and delivered by Sunshot Industries which is headed by economist Professor Ross Garnaut. The Barcaldine Renewable Energy Zone will be a blueprint for outback towns around Queensland to take advantage of their natural resources and use renewables to create jobs. Professor Garnaut said they chose Barcaldine because it is ideally located with solar and wind resources and established transmission lines, but also because of the support of the Palaszczuk government. He said the support in this budget for an industrial precinct using renewable energy in Barcaldine will extend the new era of Queensland development west of the Great Divide.

The Barcaldine Renewable Energy Zone is an unprecedented opportunity to diversify and fortify the local economy as well as make local jobs more secure, and that is what the Big Build is all about.