




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 12 October 2023

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Renewable Energy, Projects

 **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) (10.34 am): Over the past year, Queensland has led the nation in the construction of new renewable energy projects. Delivery of our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan is forging ahead, securing our energy future and delivering good Queensland jobs. Early works have started on the CopperString 2032 project, which will form part of a new backbone of high-voltage transmission infrastructure.

Exploratory works have also started on an even bigger project that will pump clean, green energy into our new SuperGrid. Geotechnical exploratory drilling has commenced for the Borumba Pumped Hydro Energy Storage project. Located near Imbil, south-west of Gympie, the Borumba pumped hydro project will be part of the Southern Queensland Renewable Energy Zones. The project, being developed by Queensland Hydro, involves the construction of a new upper reservoir as well as a new dam wall that will replace the existing Borumba Dam wall and increase Lake Borumba's storage capacity from 46 to 224 gigalitres. The project will have the capacity to generate up to 2,000 megawatts of electricity for up to 24 hours at a time—dispatchable energy on tap for a clean energy future.

The Borumba pumped hydro project is a cornerstone of our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. Today I can advise the House that the Coordinator-General has declared the Borumba Pumped Hydro Energy Storage project a coordinated project. The declaration means that a rigorous impact assessment process can now begin. It will streamline and coordinate the whole-of-government assessment including Australian, Queensland and local government environmental, social and economic matters. Queenslanders will have the opportunity to comment during public consultation as part of the environmental impact statement process. The geotechnical drilling currently underway will also help inform the EIS process.

A coordinated project declaration is a major milestone for one of Queensland's most significant renewable energy projects. When complete, Borumba hydro will complement the Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro Project—one of the largest pumped hydro schemes in the world, helping to meet Queensland's energy needs and build a cleaner future. Together, they will provide the long-duration energy storage needed to achieve our renewable energy targets of 70 per cent by 2032 and 80 per cent by 2035. It is our investments in renewable energy opportunities like pumped hydro that will lead Queensland's transition to a low-carbon economy and provide Queenslanders with the new skills and jobs of the future.