




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 24 October 2023

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Bushfires; Renewable Energy

 **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) (9.42 am): As the most disaster impacted state, Queensland is quick to act to support those impacted by disasters. I can advise the House that Queenslanders whose homes have been impacted by the Baffle Creek and Deepwater bushfires south of Gladstone can now apply for financial assistance to support them during this challenging period. Over the weekend, the Australian and Queensland governments activated disaster recovery funding arrangements to provide practical assistance to those impacted. Our emergency services and officers from the Queensland Reconstruction Authority are on the ground and will continue to work with local government to provide further assistance to those in need.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to investing in new and emerging industries to secure our energy future. Our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan is our government's blueprint for achieving decarbonisation and putting Queensland on the map as a global leader in renewable energy. Without a doubt, it is the most detailed energy plan of any government in Australia. It delivers the economic infrastructure that will set up our regions for future generations through supplying reliable, affordable and renewable energy. This plan is our path to more renewable energy in Queensland and the creation of more good, secure, local jobs. Regional Queensland is at the heart of that plan.

While in Gladstone last week I joined Minister Butcher to launch works for a new project that will be the first of its kind in Australia. Construction has started on the Australian Gas Infrastructure Group's Hydrogen Park Gladstone, known as HyP Gladstone. Throughout the region there is certainly a lot of hype about this project. It will be Australia's first city-wide supplier of a hydrogen blend into an existing gas network. It will deliver this renewable hydrogen into the city's gas network, servicing about 770 properties. The Hydrogen Park Gladstone project is expected to create new training, research and job opportunities for the whole region. Through our Hydrogen Industry Development Fund we are investing \$2.72 million into this groundbreaking project.

Queensland is the ideal location for a strong, green hydrogen industry because we have the manufacturing and skilled workforce and the resources the industry can grow from. That is why our government has committed more than \$165 million to support exciting renewable energy and hydrogen projects like Hydrogen Park Gladstone. Together with industry, we are building a stronger energy future for regional Queensland. This project is just another great example of how we are powering towards a cleaner, greener future and placing Queensland at the forefront of hydrogen production.

Today we will introduce legislation to take us further in our renewable energy transition and, importantly, safeguard our electricity assets. We will legislate our renewable energy target of 70 per cent by 2032 and 80 per cent by 2035, and we will ensure the majority of Queensland's power

generation and 100 per cent of our poles, wires and transmission lines are publicly owned, because on this side of the House we think our energy assets should be owned by Queenslanders and deliver for Queenslanders. We will keep investing in projects to ensure Queensland is in the best possible position to capitalise on new industries and the renewable energy revolution.