




Speech By
Aaron Harper

MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA

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ADJOURNMENT

Townsville Electorate, Renewable Energy

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (6.25 pm): What a great day it was in parliament today to see the public gallery full of tradies and people supporting renewable energy and the projects we will be doing as a result of our Clean Economy Jobs Bill, which was passed today with government support. It was such a shame that they got to see empty seats and the Leader of the Opposition voting against our bills. Essentially, they voted to privatise our energy assets.

I want to provide an update. I had a briefing from Powerlink recently in Townsville. I am glad we have North Queensland people here. We talk about Queensland's SuperGrid, but North Queensland has its own super energy grid, and it will be backed in. In a couple of months the turbines will start at Kidston. What a great use of an old gold mine: 2,000 megawatt hours that will power 143,000 homes in North Queensland. I think that is great. Our state government backed that in. Everyone remembers the 2019 Townsville regional sitting where we committed over \$140 million to build that 270-kilometre, 275-kilowatt line. I heard the flat-earthers on the other side say it would not create jobs. Well, go and speak to the local Ingham concreting company that had to employ more concreters and buy more trucks when they did the footings for Kidston. Go and speak to the hundreds of workers who worked hard. That entire energy project is surrounded by renewable energy in terms of wind farms and solar panels. All of them had to be put in by those hard workers.

We also have CopperString, which will kick off in July when we break ground for stage 1 in Hughenden. I will invite all of the flat-earthers over there and the people who do not believe in renewable energy because, backed by our government's \$1.3 billion, CopperString will create thousands of jobs through unlocking the North West Minerals Province and creating thousands of jobs. I want those who are smiling over there to come out to Lansdown and see what we are doing by providing trunk infrastructure to enable future jobs in the renewable energy space. We will be producing batteries in North Queensland and manufacturing them to the world through the largest port in North Queensland, our Townsville port. I know that all of the North Queensland members are right behind CopperString. The Labor government is behind CopperString. I call out the LNP because they are silent on CopperString. They will not back it. The Leader of the Opposition is completely weak on CopperString. He should man up and tell us what he is going to do.