




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

Record of Proceedings, 17 April 2024

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Aldoga Solar Farm; Infrastructure

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.39 am): Under the Miles government, Queensland is powering towards a sustainable future. Last week I joined the Premier, the Minister for Energy and Clean Economy Jobs and the Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing to turn the sod on Acciona Energia's \$500 million solar farm at Aldoga. Situated within the Gladstone State Development Area on land owned by Economic Development Queensland, EDQ, this facility will feature up to 820,000 solar modules with a capacity to produce a peak of 480 megawatts of power. The solar farm will offer \$150 million in local procurement opportunities—and I know the member for Gladstone and minister is particularly happy with that—and deliver up to 350 jobs during construction and up to 10 ongoing full-time roles.

This project not only aligns with our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan but also is a major example of how we are powering towards our 70 per cent renewable energy target by 2032 and our commitment to a 75 per cent reduction in emissions by 2035. Acciona Energia's community benefits program will also provide \$120,000 in annual funding to local initiatives, including scholarships with Central Queensland University, small grants and legacy projects. Some 100 per cent of the electricity it produces will be supplied to the Stanwell Corporation's proposed Central Queensland hydrogen project, CQ-H2, under a power purchase agreement. As Brett Wickham, managing director of Acciona Energia, said—

The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, great partners in Stanwell and EDQ and some of the best renewable resources in the country are why we want to keep building these projects here.

Construction of the Aldoga Solar Farm is now underway with the facility to be operational by mid-2026 and operate for 30 years. We are also in the final stages of consultation on four regional transformation strategies now that the outcomes of the local elections are known. I acknowledge the involvement of my assistant minister, the member for Mackay, in these consultations. The strategies will support the Mount Isa-North-West, Greater Whitsunday, Central Queensland, Darling Downs and South-West and South Burnett regions transition towards the jobs and industry that will support a low-emissions future. The Aldoga Solar Farm project and the regional transitional strategies are examples of how this government is creating jobs into the future for Queensland workers.

Projects such as the solar farm complement the Miles government Big Build, which will see more than \$90 billion of investment in the next four years alone. Right across the state, we are building the infrastructure Queensland needs. More than half of this is in our regions, I point out for regional members. We are building a new hospital in Bundaberg. We are building heavy rail on the Sunshine Coast. We are building the Rockhampton Ring Road in Central Queensland. The list goes on: we are building a new hospital in Toowoomba, we are building CopperString 2032 and we are building trains in Maryborough.

Queensland is in the biggest decade of infrastructure delivery in our history. We are proudly supporting innovative industries for our regions, ensuring our industrial heartlands continue their vital role in providing energy now and into the future. It is a Miles Labor government that will look after the regions. Queensland deserves nothing less.