




Speech By
Jimmy Sullivan

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

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**ENERGY (RENEWABLE TRANSFORMATION AND JOBS) BILL; CLEAN
ECONOMY JOBS BILL**

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (9.00 pm): I rise proudly to support the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill as well as the Clean Economy Jobs Bill which will do so much for this state. I would like to associate myself with the comments of the minister, as well as the previous speaker, in terms of the transformational nature of these two bills. The Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill builds on the next key step in delivering the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. The bill enshrines Queensland's renewable energy targets. It establishes targets for the proportion of energy to be generated from renewable energy sources: 50 per cent by 2030, 70 per cent by 2032 and 80 per cent by 2035. These are big goals and they are important goals, but we are proud to set our plans big. To implement those commitments, under the plan the bill also creates reporting and review mechanisms to track progress against the targets so that we can get it done.

Importantly, the bill also cements a longstanding policy position of this government—public ownership of our energy assets—which is so important to the transformation, both in terms of energy and the jobs that we need. The bill requires the publication of a strategy, with public ownership targets of equal to or more than 54 per cent of generation assets, 100 per cent of electricity transmission and distribution assets, and 100 per cent of deep storage assets. That is a lot of figures, but it means a lot. It is about the future of our environment, the future of our energy market and the future of power bills for families all over the state. I will be proud to look back in 20, 30, 40 years, when my kids are hopefully paying energy bills themselves, and think about the role we played as a parliament in setting that scene.

Part of how we got to where we are, both with the plan and with the bill, is genuine engagement with stakeholders, with our public ownership GOCs, with workers and their representatives, with industry. It is really important that we could bring people together to make it happen because it is a win-win-win. We are helping to make a cleaner environment, which we all know is important in tackling climate change. We are making sure that there is genuine and legitimate transformation of the workforce to make sure we have the skilled workforce that we need for this new industry. At the end of the day, at home when you turn the lights on, or the dishwasher or the washing machine—as I do regularly—you know that your bills are going to be cheaper because all the research shows that the future for cheaper power prices for households is in renewable energy. I am proud to play a small part in that.

In terms of jobs, the research has shown that it will equate to effectively 100,000 jobs in this new industry, which is hugely important for our kids and important for people in similar industries who want to transition and skill up to make the change. In terms of cost of living, independent modelling has been undertaken for the plan that we have already released and it shows really clearly that lower wholesale electricity prices will flow to lower retail bills. Queensland's public ownership position also supports electricity bills. It allows the government, through our publicly owned assets, to ease these pressures. This builds on the Queensland government's investment of over \$1.1 billion to provide households and small businesses with direct energy bill relief in 2023-24 and that adds to the Australian government's contribution of a further \$330 million under the national Energy Bill Relief Fund.

Those opposite have been cock-a-hoop about this. That is because we know what they want to do. We heard earlier in the week that the meeting between the Leader of the Opposition and the leader of the federal opposition was about energy. We know their future is nuclear. What they will not do is tell Queenslanders what their plan is and where it will be. Are they going to support Peter Dutton's plan to put a nuclear power plant on the Esplanade in Cairns, on the Strand in Townsville, at the port in Gladstone, at the Brisbane port, on the Sunshine Coast or the Gold Coast? I cannot even tell my community that they are not going to put it on the Kedron Brook or the Schulz Canal that run through my community. That is how ridiculous the position of those opposite is. They will not tell us where things are going. They have an opportunity to rule it out, but we know that Mr Dutton is running the show.

Mr O'Connor: We have!

Mr SULLIVAN: I will take the interjection from the member for Bonney: 'We have ruled it out.' Just like the member voted for treaty and then voted against it, you twisted on a dime. We cannot trust those opposite at all. That is their record. I commend both bills to the House. It is only a Labor government that can be trusted on the environment, on energy and on jobs.