




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR COOPER

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

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (8.39 pm): You cannot grow up, as I did in Tasmania in the eighties, against the backdrop of the Franklin River debate and not have a strong and clear position around environmental protections. It is one of the reasons I am a member of the Labor Party, because only Labor has the willingness to act on the critical issues concerning the environment. I speak of issues like decarbonisation, waste reduction, biodiversity preservation and cultural heritage recognition. It is only Labor that has the ability to form government and to introduce legislation and actually create climate action.

I am not going to stand here and say that our government's environmental record aligns perfectly with mine at all times. It does not. Queensland is a large and diverse state and the things we want in Ashgrove or Paddington are not always commensurate with what the people in Gladstone or certainly Callide want, so we sometimes see that compromised position play out in policy. However, the reform that the Miles government has undertaken including this bill, which is our plan to decarbonise Queensland, is one to be immeasurably proud of.

The Clean Economy Jobs Bill will support jobs and secure Queensland's economic future by enshrining the state's emissions reduction commitments in law. These legislated targets will support Australia's commitments under the Paris Agreement with the long-term goal being to arrest global average temperatures. These targets are for the state to achieve 30 per cent reduction below 2005 levels by 2030, 75 per cent by 2035 and net zero emissions by 2050. Formalising Queensland's emissions targets in legislation will not only safeguard Queenslanders' way of life; it will simultaneously advance the mutual interests of protecting our planet for future generations while protecting the Queensland economy and unlocking thousands of new job opportunities. This coordinated climate action will create secure and safe job opportunities in Queensland's emerging clean economy industries like hydrogen, critical metals and minerals, and advanced manufacturing, especially in Queensland's regions where that social licence to proceed with the decarbonisation of our state is not just desirable but necessary. Importantly, formalising Queensland's emissions reduction targets signals to investors that Queensland is open for business in new industries and indeed carbonising the state's existing industries.

It is no secret that my electorate has a high percentage of people who value environmental reform, and I appreciate that there are political parties who continue to focus their criticism on the government's policies. I urge my residents to consider that there are far greater risks to climate action in Queensland, and that is in fact the LNP. I would be extremely concerned if the LNP were to win government at the next election. During this debate the LNP has stated they will vote against keeping energy assets in public hands, which would mean that under the LNP billions of dollars of investment in renewable energy would be cut, thousands of Queenslanders would lose their jobs and Queenslanders would ultimately pay hundreds of dollars more every year in their power bills. That is the alternative government. That is the real risk. I encourage my constituents to keep that mind.

The Miles government will deliver investment in affordable, reliable and publicly owned renewables. Our plan will: create 100,000 clean and secure jobs, keep electricity assets in public hands and deliver electricity rebates that provide vital cost-of-living relief to all Queensland households.

I want to acknowledge and thank the many and varied stakeholders who have not only contributed to this remarkable milestone but also have met with me and briefed me on their areas of specialisation. I have met with numerous conservation groups, youth policy movements, transport advocacy groups, scientists, agronomists, unions and educators about the urgent need to lock in these legislated emissions reduction targets. I give a special acknowledgement also to the Labor Environmental Action Network, LEAN, who are a powerhouse in the Labor movement in their advocacy for environmental reform. I am a proud member—in fact, I am the patron—of this wonderful coalition of the willing. On that, I commend the bills to the House.