




Speech By
Kim Richards

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

Record of Proceedings, 17 April 2024

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

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (12.53 pm): I rise to support the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023 and the Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2024. I am pleased the LNP will be supporting both of these bills in cognate, but I would ask—as the member for Bonney just said—what is their pathway to the targets? I think there is a real white elephant in the room in the form of nuclear power on which a position has not been taken. I know very well that the future member for Oodgeroo has a very deep, burning passion for nuclear power, and we know what the federal member looks like. I will remind those opposite that when we talk about a renewables future it most certainly does not include nuclear power. I know there is not one person in the Redlands who would want to see a nuclear power plant in our beautiful part of the world.

The member for Bonney also talked about consultation. Again, some of the things that come from the other side! The cornerstone of our work has been engagement, partnership, collaboration and consultation. Our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan is world leading, and these two bills are a result of that planning work. If you fail to plan, then you plan to fail. The Miles government is focused on ensuring that not only do we transition our energy into a renewables future but we make sure that we bring all Queenslanders on that journey with us.

What is world leading is the Queensland Energy Workers' Charter. I am really proud of our government's work with trade unions to make sure that we bring Queenslanders on the journey to a renewables future. These two bills are extraordinarily important to the future, as the member for Bonney would well know. As one of the younger people in this parliament, he would know how significant climate change is and how much young people in our communities are focused on what climate change looks like and what we as a government are doing to deliver and secure a better future for young people.

There is not an awful lot of time left on the clock, but I will talk about the results of the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan and what these two bills have been returning for Queenslanders through public ownership of our energy assets in terms of electricity rebates. As we heard today in the minister's ministerial statement, we have the lowest energy prices here in Queensland. The work of our Miles government is delivering to make sure that we put downward pressure on energy prices for all Queenslanders.

I was pleased to chair in part the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023. I thank the member for Macalister for her work in doing all of the travel that was required in the public hearings for that bill. When you talk about consultation, the committee went to Rockhampton, Mackay, Townsville, Cairns and Brisbane on that bill. There was substantial consultation. There were 48 submissions to that bill. With regard to the Clean Economy Jobs Bill, which I did have carriage of in its entirety, we had 35 submissions, public briefings and public hearings. I thank all of the witnesses and submitters who contributed to this process. Those sector plans will be extraordinarily important in terms of how we are able to deliver on meeting those targets. As the minister said in his ministerial statement yesterday, we are on track to meet those targets into the future.

I also want to talk about the workforce, the transition and the training, because I think that is a really big piece of work and it should give all Queenslanders comfort that our government is working on how we make sure that we transform into a renewables future. The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan sets out that path for transformation. We know that we are going to need an extra 100,000 workers in the energy space into the future. It is significant that 64,000 direct and indirect jobs will be created from building the SuperGrid and 36,000 jobs will be created across key sectors.

I was really pleased that the member for Bundamba, the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development, was able to attend our TAFE, because free TAFE is part of delivering in this sector. We got to meet Ciara, a lovely young electrical apprentice who lives in the Redlands. She is really excited about what the opportunity of training to be an electrician of the future looks like. She is currently working on the PA Hospital. She knows how important the Miles government's investment is in our renewables future, the training that is attached to that and what workforce transition looks like. I am really proud of that work. I thank the secretariat for all of their work. I thank the minister for considering the recommendations that were made for the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill. I look forward to seeing all of these plans roll out right the way across Queensland, with regional Queenslanders being very much a big beneficiary.

Talking about consultation, the member for Kurwongbah and Assistant Minister for Clean Economy Jobs and I had a chance to attend the Mackay Chamber of Commerce meeting with Queensland Hydro to talk about pumped hydro. That is the cornerstone of how we do business here in our Miles government: we go out to communities, we talk to them and we listen to them. On that note, I commend the bills to the House.