




Speech By  
**Hon. Lance McCallum**

**MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 April 2024

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

 **Hon. LR McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (9.21 pm): I rise to proudly speak in support of these incredibly important laws. I do so because of what they mean both to the Queensland of today and the Queensland of tomorrow. Our future generations will benefit from the decisions taken in this parliament in relation to these laws and the legacy this will leave—a legacy that is proudly left because of Labor.

Put simply, these bills lock in our renowned Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan; lock in over 100,000 new, good jobs; lock in tens of billions of dollars in investment in clean energy; lock in cleaner, cheaper energy for our homes and businesses; lock in an energy system that will remain owned by the people of Queensland; lock in surety for existing energy workers and their communities; lock in clean, reliable and affordable energy for generations; and lock in new industries and continued competitiveness for our existing industries by cutting emissions by 75 per cent by 2035.

These bills are for every Queensland, our industries and our economy. They leverage our state's natural advantages to build a clean and competitive energy system for the economy and industries as a way to accelerate growth, deliver affordable energy for our homes and businesses, support more rooftop solar and batteries, drive better outcomes for workers and communities as partners to take up the myriad opportunities presented by the energy transformation and take the real action on climate that Queenslanders and Australians have overwhelmingly voted for. Under the Miles Labor government we have already seen so much progress. Since 2015, we have seen 54 new large-scale renewable projects that have delivered over \$11 billion in investment and over 8,700 jobs in construction alone. That has avoided over 15 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

It is clear that Queensland is a clean energy superpower with world-class solar and wind, has the ideal geography for large-scale pumped hydro, has the critical minerals below the ground that make the renewable energy technologies we need to decarbonise and, most importantly, has the public ownership of our energy system to make it happen. Is it any wonder that our plan and these laws are not just being celebrated around the world but right across our local neighbourhoods in Ipswich. That is because our commitment to public ownership includes Wivenhoe pumped hydro and the Swanbank Clean Energy Hub in Bundamba. It is because of public ownership that we can deliver meaningful cost-of-living relief through energy rebates to our homes, to our vulnerable community members and to small businesses.

It is Labor that reopened Swanbank Power Station, it is Labor that brought back our Swanbank workers, and it is Labor that is investing over \$300 million in a big battery at Swanbank as part of South-East Queensland's very first clean energy hub to secure a bright future for our workers and their families and clean, cheap power for homes and businesses. I want to acknowledge the mighty trade union movement for their 'Not for sale' campaign and for saving that power station and so many other of our energy assets from the threat of privatisation.

While that was then, we know now that the LNP wants to cut clean energy projects. We can see it in this debate. We have heard from the shadow energy minister that the LNP will be opposing one of the bills that locks in public ownership and that locks into legislation the jobs guarantee that will protect energy workers in our energy communities. There is only one reason they are doing that, and that is because if given the chance they will sell off our assets again. They have done it once and they will do it again. Labor will always protect our energy assets, and I proudly commend these bills to the House.