



Speech By  
**Hon. Leanne Linard**


**MEMBER FOR NUDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 February 2024

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Clean Economy Jobs Bill**

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Innovation) (9.44 am): The Clean Economy Jobs Bill to be introduced by the Premier is a bold and ambitious demonstration of our refreshed government's deep commitment to taking action on climate change. A failure to address climate change puts our environment, jobs, economy and lifestyle at risk. We are already bearing the cost of more unpredictable weather resulting in coastal erosion, bleaching events and habitat and species loss. Left unchecked, it will also risk jobs across multiple industries and further exacerbate the cost of living, such as through insurance premiums or the cost of food and fuel. We must continue to take bold steps now to respond to this threat for the benefit of future generations of Queenslanders.

One of the most important actions we can take to respond to climate change is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Clean Economy Jobs Bill enshrines in law ambitious new emissions reduction targets: a 30 per cent reduction on the 2005 levels of emissions by 2030, which we are on the cusp of achieving from avoided land clearing; and a target of a 75 per cent reduction by 2035 and a commitment to net zero emissions by 2050. The Miles government will develop a forward work program to establish how we will achieve the new interim target. It will build upon the significant work already undertaken by our government to date. The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan is central to taking forward the decarbonisation of our energy system and will also help capitalise on the opportunities arising from the global energy transition, bringing new industries and jobs to the state.

Queensland has been at the forefront of working with landowners to capitalise on a growing demand for carbon offsets. The Land Restoration Fund is both delivering premium credits to industry and working to protect and enhance biodiversity across our beautiful state. The LRF is putting nature, people, lives and livelihoods at the heart of climate action. Our half a billion dollar LRF is growing Queensland's carbon farming industry, generating new jobs and income streams for rural and regional communities and delivering valuable environmental and social outcomes.

We are working with the mining industry to help reduce their carbon emissions. All new mines are now required to produce decarbonisation plans. The Department of Environment, Science and Innovation is also delivering a decarbonisation strategic technology roadmap that aims to engage local startups and entrepreneurs to adapt new technologies for decarbonisation challenges.

Importantly, today's Clean Economy Jobs Bill signals to international investors that Queensland is serious about emissions reduction, that we are serious about investment in renewable energy and that we aim to be not only a national but also a global player. Global investment in the energy transition hit US\$1.8 trillion in 2023, which was up 17 per cent on the previous year and a new record.

This landmark commitment unleashes Queensland's potential as an investment destination, capitalising on our abundant sun, wind and land, interconnection to the Australia grid and exports to the region. Accelerating climate action will help protect our natural environment, our jobs and lifestyle. It will contribute to our economy while increasing efforts to conserve the environment upon which we all depend. I am proud to be the environment minister in a government that is willing to take decisive action to respond to the threat of climate change and leave a legacy for all Queenslanders.