




Speech By
Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 13 February 2024

QUEENSLAND CLIMATE TRANSITION BILL

 **Mr BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (5.46 pm): When we came to power we had only a four per cent renewable energy mix here in this state. We are now in the mid 20 per cent and beyond—a phenomenal outcome in terms of acting on climate change. We now have the Queensland energy and jobs bill introduced by the Minister for Energy. That is the most thorough and comprehensive transition of an energy system in this nation as a second part of the renewable energy target brought in by me as the energy minister in the first term of the Palaszczuk government. There has not been a state government that has done more in terms of acting on climate change and energy transition than this government. That is good for a state that has traditionally been a coal state. Honourable members need only to get out to North Queensland, the Darling Downs, Central Queensland or Hervey Bay to see the extent of the energy transition that is happening. I say to the member for Maiwar that he needs to get out of West End and Auchenflower and go to the Darling Downs. He should go and see the massive wind farms that are going ahead and the solar farms going on.

Mr Lister: We need a dam there, weather events.

Mr BAILEY: I will not take the interjection of the member for Southern Downs and we all know his proclivities in this regard, which are very 20th century.

What we have is a transition in response to climate change. It has been thoroughly researched by industry specialists. To go from four per cent renewable energy in Queensland to be hitting a 70 per cent target at 2032 and then 80 per cent by 2035 is a thorough piece of governance by a government that is committed to the principles of acting on climate change.

It is very easy for a member of the crossbench, like the member for Maiwar, to stand in here and one-up the government—‘It should’ve been done yesterday’, ‘The target should just wind back a few years’. It is all about political positioning rather than the responsibility of delivering the transformation of a power system, which is a very complex piece of infrastructure. The Energy and Jobs Plan brought down by the member for Springwood and backed by this government and cabinet is a well-researched plan that deals with the transition, that deals with the intermittency and that brings in pumped hydro. If we want to get gas and fossil fuels out of the system, what is the answer? We have to have pumped hydro in this state. It is a vast state and the answer is that plan. Is there any acknowledgement of that thorough piece of work by the Greens party? No, zero, not a skerrick of it. There are a lot of scare tactics in the speech and emotional pleas by the member for Maiwar, but there is no fair dinkum acknowledgement of the substantial progress that this government has made and will continue to make. It is about the actual implementation of the transition by a responsible government versus the vibe that is being promoted by the Greens party, and I know which one I will choose as a responsible member of this parliament.

We deal with the real world of managing a complex issue, but we are making phenomenal progress. We have seen billions and billions of dollars invested in solar and wind and we are heading towards pumped hydro as well. I support the comments from the Minister for Energy and member for

Springwood. This government's commitment cannot be questioned when we look at its record. When we look at the record of the government that we succeeded and we see what we have been able to achieve, it has been a huge amount of progress. It is something that every member on this side of the parliament is proud of in that we are managing that transition to a low-emission economy. That guide forward is something that is envied by other states and territories right across Australia—that is, the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan.