




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MILLER

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

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (8.54 pm): I rise with pride to support the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill and the Clean Economy Jobs Bill. This is about the government's very strong record in facilitating Queensland's energy transformation to clean energy. I was very proud as the first energy minister to bring the first renewable energy target into this chamber. The government has advanced that because we are ahead of our target by two years under the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. What we are doing today is legislating the emissions reductions target. Why? Because we are serious about it and we want to send out clear market signals to ensure more clean energy infrastructure is built. Of course, we do not trust any future government to wriggle out of it, go in the opposite direction and take Queensland backwards. We want to see it locked in and that is what this legislation is about.

While we are setting targets for 2040 and 2045, the legislation will allow us some flexibility in the decade beforehand. We know the market will move in all kinds of directions so there needs to be flexibility. Certainly there is flexibility and agility in the emissions bill. We will see annual reporting and we will see an infrastructure blueprint. This is good policy from the Miles Labor government, which is serious about transforming our energy sector to clean energy, while we get a lot of the 'same old' from the LNP. Everyone heard the comments of the member for Nanango. They are so far behind on the energy debate that it is embarrassing. They talk about base load. It is not about base load; it is about dispatchability. If you read a briefing paper from eight years ago then you would know that. Apparently the opposition has not worked out that it is about dispatchability.

This bill looks at locking in the public ownership of our energy assets, which is something that has been instrumental in our ability to facilitate this transformation. When we came to power, there was four per cent clean energy in Queensland. Not a single large-scale energy project was facilitated under the Newman government, in which David Crisafulli was a minister. There was not one project while the whole country was starting to move into clean energy. Now the percentage is in the high 20s and accelerating because this government is committed to acting on climate change. However, this is not just about acting on climate change; it is about acknowledging technology. The member for Traeger talked about ideology. It is not ideology; it is technology. It is new technology. It is useful and it is cheaper in terms of people's bills compared to coal fired, gas and nuclear. It makes economic sense.

It is embarrassing that this is an area that is contested when in many other countries it is not contested between the major parties or even the minor parties. They know that energy transformation is essential to a modern economy. Germany is a good example of that. Former chancellor Angela Merkel was a conservative leader for more than decade. She was a formidable leader. She led the energy transformation as a right-wing party leader. Sadly, in Queensland we are still having a silly partisan debate about it.

We still hear comments from the LNP that undermine the energy transformation. We know their record. Two words you will never hear the opposition say in this place are 'strong choices'. They do not want to talk about it. They failed to privatise our assets but we know that they keep undermining at every opportunity, even from opposition. We see them trying to undermine the pumped hydro aspect of the Energy and Jobs Plan, which is a fundamental part of providing storage for increasing levels of renewable energy. With pumped hydro, you have storage and dispatchability absolutely sorted as your clean energy increases year by year and the frequency control and the system remain stable. It is a fundamental part of the system. For the opposition to continue to undermine the pumped hydro part of the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan is an embarrassment. It shows that they do not understand and they are not committed. We know that they will just go back to the old world and that the state would go backwards.

The member for Traeger raised the nuclear issue. The opposition leader said no to that, but we know he is weak. When it comes to the treaty, he made it a personal principle to get the opposition to vote for treaty and they did. No-one made him do it. No-one twisted his arm. He said that it was a matter of personal principle and then he folded as soon as Peter Dutton picked up the phone. That shows how weak he is. We know with nuclear that is exactly what will happen. If Dutton ever got to power he would roll over the top of the weak Leader of the Opposition, the member for Broadwater. We know there is no spine there, no courage or metal. We know what would happen.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Miller, I think the term you have used is unparliamentary. I would ask you to withdraw.

Mr BAILEY: I withdraw. The member for Traeger talks about the size of wind turbines. We know they are big, but that is not an argument. We have ships, we have skyscrapers, we have A300s. They are all useful things. Are wind turbines useful? Yes, they are. Can they coexist with other industries? Of course they can.

I am very proud of a government that is committed to the energy transformation here in Queensland. It deserves support. It is easy to undermine it and white-ant it like the LNP do. It is easy when you are in the Greens party to say it should have been done yesterday and why don't we do more. That is easy and lazy; it is another thing to do it. This government is doing it. These bills will go down in history as important bills in the energy transformation. I support the Premier and the minister all the way and I am proud to be part of a government that is facilitating the energy transformation in Queensland. We have made a lot of progress and there will be a lot more progress because of these bills.