




Speech By
Peter Russo
MEMBER FOR TOOHEY

Record of Proceedings, 17 April 2024

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

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (8.34 pm): I rise to speak to the cognate bills, the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023 and the Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2024. The Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee in its report No. 1 of the 57th Parliament tabled in this Assembly on 1 March 2024 and report No. 4 of the 57th Parliament tabled in the Assembly on 5 April 2024 has recommended to the Assembly that these bills be passed.

The purpose of the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023 is to enshrine key commitments from the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan such as the following into law: build a clean and competitive energy system for the economy and industries as a platform for accelerating growth; deliver affordable energy for households and businesses and support more rooftop solar and batteries; drive better outcomes for workers in communities as partners in the energy transformation; create the infrastructure frameworks needed to build Queensland's SuperGrid; and establish the governance and advisory functions for a smooth, coordinated transformation to support workers and communities.

The main purpose of the Clean Economy Jobs Bill is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Queensland by stating specific emissions reduction targets. By legislating the targets, the bill aims to create policy certainty to attract investment in new industries in decarbonising the state's existing industries and support the creation of more job opportunities in Queensland's emerging clean economy industries and existing industries.

By establishing a new act enshrining Queensland emissions reduction targets in law, the state aims to achieve a 30 per cent reduction below 2005 levels by 2030; 75 per cent below 2005 levels by 2035; and net zero emissions by 2050. The committee found that generally stakeholders supported the objectives of the Clean Economy Jobs Bill and they supported the legislating of targets as a means for Queensland to establish its emissions reduction commitments and to demonstrate Queensland's intended contributions to national and international objectives that are aimed at halting climate change and its impacts.

Sector plans will be a key component of Queensland efforts to achieve its emissions reduction targets, with the establishment and operation of an advisory panel called the Clean Economy Expert Panel. This will be a significant step in driving emissions reductions. The panel will provide a clean avenue for the government to hear the latest scientific transformation research and experience. The minister, in his first reading of the proposed Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023, spoke to the spirit of Queenslanders and our collective use of natural resources when he said—

Queenslanders have always used our natural resources to be bold and visionary and world beating. From producing the mighty industrialised mineral exports, our manufacturing, our agriculture and the processing of our commodities, including coal, copper, aluminium and sugar, we have built cities, towns and communities across the most decentralised state in the nation.

In closing, I want to make some comments about the contribution by the member for Nanango. It would appear that the LNP are voting against keeping energy assets in public hands. We have been down this path before and it will put thousands of Queensland jobs in jeopardy. It will put at risk billions of investment dollars in renewable energy and put upward pressure on electricity bills. The Miles government's plan will create hundreds of thousands of good, secure jobs and keeping electricity assets in public hands allows the Miles government to provide necessary cost-of-living relief to all Queensland households. All of this is at risk under the LNP. They will cut and sell our valuable assets and bring into jeopardy the cost-of-living benefits that the Miles government will always provide to Queensland households. Do not forget that the Leader of the Opposition was part of the Newman government which was proposing to privatise our energy assets. The sale of our energy assets would again be in jeopardy under the LNP. I commend the bills to the House.