



Speech By  
**Shane King**


**MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 June 2024

**MOTION**

**Emissions Targets**

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (4.44 pm): I rise to speak on the motion moved by the member for Traeger, who would like to wind back our emissions targets here in Queensland. No doubt some members would also like us to wind back the clocks to the 17th century when people thought the earth was flat. We will not be doing that. In the Miles government we stand proudly on our record when it comes to addressing climate change. We hold proudly our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, and we have backed it again in the budget this week with \$26 billion over four years for renewable energy, an investment that is estimated to return around \$430 billion to the state economy and support 145,000 jobs by 2050.

I spent many years in the electricity supply industry and now have the privilege of serving Queenslanders as the Assistant Minister for Clean Economy Jobs, so I am really happy to speak on this topic. I have been talking about our plans with Kurwongbah locals, Kurwongbah businesses, former colleagues from the power industry, local school communities as well as industry groups and big business. I have been asked a few questions which I am always happy to answer, but I have had very little negative feedback, present company—our colleagues in the Katter party—excluded. I have largely found the reaction to our emissions targets and the transmission to more renewable power sources has been overwhelmingly positive.

The 2023 Climate of the Nation report found over 70 per cent of Australians have concerns about climate change and its impact on the cost of living. Specific issues that have been identified include more expensive insurance policies, disruption to supply chains, the impact of droughts and floods on crop production and food supply, more bushfires and the extinction of animals and plants. It adds up. Queenslanders are more impacted by natural disasters than anywhere else in Australia. We have the wildest storms, cyclones and now tornados and we have some of the deadliest floods, hottest fires and longest droughts, all of which can wipe out crops causing the prices of our fruit, vegetables and basic food needs to increase.

We have one of the great wonders of the world, the Great Barrier Reef, which contributes \$6.4 billion to the Australian economy. Right now it is reeling from some of the worst bleaching from federal LNP inaction on climate change for too many years. Extreme events can also make some homes unlivable and drive up the cost of insurance premiums, making some houses and businesses uninsurable. Not acting on climate change will certainly have cost-of-living impacts.

The member for Traeger is very well aware that his town of Mount Isa is home to Queensland's only vanadium mining lease located near Julia Creek. Copper and vanadium are critical minerals for this transition. In April I visited the University of Queensland with QEM and the member for Condamine and heard from researchers there who are incredibly excited about the massive potential and opportunities of vanadium flow batteries, which are now grid-scale. This is game-changing battery

technology. It is being mined in Queensland and our universities are at the forefront of research and discoveries. I am sure the member will have to be supportive of that mining in his patch and the renewable energy and technology it supports.

If we do not shift to renewable energy, our existing industries that rely on clean energy to move forward will not maintain their competitiveness and will not survive. I hope the member realises this and thinks long and hard about his ideology that can kill off industry. We can still protect jobs in industries like smelting, beef and cotton. We will grasp this once-in-a-generation opportunity to create new industries that serve a decarbonising global economy—things like critical minerals, hydrogen and sustainable aviation fuel. Queensland and Australia are about to have the most desirable products because they are made with clean energy. This will grow our exports, resulting in more jobs and more prosperity.

I am waiting eagerly for the Leader of the Queensland LNP to stand up to federal opposition leader Peter Dutton to let him know that we already have a solid energy plan backed by the budget that is widely supported. We do not want or need the federal LNP's nuclear power here—no, thank you. Perhaps the Queensland LNP agrees with Peter Dutton and the Katter party about nuclear power. If that is the case then they should front up to voters now about where they want to put it and what it will cost.

I will conclude by repeating some of the sentiments shared with me by constituents I represent. 'Renewable energy is good. Wind and water are mostly free.' 'Coal has served a purpose but it's coming to an end where generators are concerned.' 'Cost-of-living relief is good and shouldn't come at a cost to our environment or community safety.' Finally, 'We don't want nuclear power in Kurwongbah.' I oppose this motion.