




Speech By
Hon. Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Energy Industry

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (10.06 am): Today my government will introduce legislation to lock in our emissions reductions target of 75 per cent by 2035, as well as the existing target of 30 per cent by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050. As I said yesterday, 75 by '35 will support industry growth, attract more investment and generate good jobs, especially in Queensland's regions. It builds on the momentum and progress our state has achieved already.

We have already hit a 29 per cent reduction on 2005 levels, putting us on track to exceed our 2030 target of 30 per cent. This shows we can do it, because of our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. It is a landmark plan that maps our transition to renewable energy and charts Queensland's big energy build, with \$19 billion invested over the next four years supporting thousands of jobs in Rockhampton, Gladstone, Townsville, Mount Isa, Cairns, Kingaroy and everywhere in between to build assets that Queenslanders own such as CopperString—a \$5 billion high-voltage transmission line connecting Mount Isa and Townsville, unlocking more than half a trillion dollars in clean energy and critical mineral opportunities—and the world's largest pumped hydro plan for Pioneer-Burdekin and another at Borumba.

Our government has helped connect the largest solar farm in Australia to the SuperGrid. It has the capacity to power 235,000 Queensland homes. We are progressing major wind projects like the Wambo and MacIntyre wind farms so we can power even more Queensland homes with cheaper, cleaner renewable energy. Just last month I announced \$179 million for stages 3 and 4 of our local network connected batteries program. This funding will deliver 12 new network batteries that will convert the power from rooftop solar into clean energy at times of peak demand, building on the 17 in delivery as part of stages 1 and 2 of the program.

Under our Energy and Jobs Plan big build, this year we are starting construction on stage 2 of the Wambo Windfarm, the Boulder Creek Windfarm and the Brigalow hydrogen-ready gas-peaking plant. There will be many more projects to come this year. We know that more projects like these will push down the wholesale price of power. A recent report by the Australian Energy Market Operator shows that renewables are more regularly pushing the spot price of power below zero. That shows our transition to net zero is working as it should—cutting energy prices. Those savings should be passed on to Queensland families. The latest consumer price index data shows that Brisbane has the lowest energy prices on the east coast thanks to our cost-of-living rebates.

A clean economy also pays dividends for our environment. That is why I am pleased our government continues to expand our protected areas. Two more properties totalling 200,000 hectares have been secured near Longreach and Winton. They will make a major contribution to protecting the headwaters of the Queensland section of the Lake Eyre basin. This acquisition takes our protected areas to over 14.51 million hectares. That is bigger than England, bigger than Greece, and it is more than two whole Tasmanias—just in protected areas, just in Queensland.

I am proud of the work we are doing to preserve Queensland's environment for the next generation, reduce our emissions contribution, slow climate change and power Queensland on the sun, wind and water we have in abundance, and delivering a bigger, brighter Queensland for our children and our children's children—something only a Labor government can and will do.