




Speech By  
**Hon. Steven Miles**

**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA**

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

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (12.18 pm): I rise to speak on the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill and the Clean Economy Jobs Bill. These two bills mark an important moment in Queensland's history and I am very proud that we are debating them, because ahead of us lies two very different futures: a clean economy future where we act to invest in renewable energy and pumped hydro storage, where manufacturing in Queensland is powered by renewable energy 24 hours a day, seven days a week, a future where we set up Queensland's economy for the next century with tens of thousands of high-paying jobs across our regions; or a future where our state is powered by nuclear energy, which we know would be more expensive, would take longer and leave us without the clean energy jobs reliant on cheap, stored renewables. The LNP nuclear option would see manufacturing go offshore to countries that keep investing in cheap, clean renewable energy and we would lose \$430 billion in economic opportunity. We would all be left poorer for it.

These bills set the legislative pathway for Queenslanders to make our future with stored renewables and not with nuclear power. However, legislation alone will not guarantee the actions that will be needed to deliver on a clean economy future. Only Labor will fight for Queensland's future. Only Labor will deliver the investment in the pumped hydro energy storage, the SuperGrid and the renewable energy that will be needed. Only Labor will back public ownership of our power assets so that we can deliver on this plan and protect our energy security with a commitment to keeping the SuperGrid and our large-scale pumped hydros 100 per cent owned by the people of Queensland as well as more than half—54 per cent—of our generation.

Another clear difference between Labor and the LNP is that Labor believes energy assets should stay in public hands. The LNP has always wanted to privatise them and now it proposes to do so by stealth. Its nuclear power plants would be paid for by taxpayers but owned by private corporations profiting from those higher power prices. Only a Labor government will invest in the proven, established technologies and in a plan backed by science and economic modelling. We will not back unsafe nuclear energy at more than five times the cost and we will not place our Great Artesian Basin and the Great Barrier Reef at risk by starting uranium mining.

Only a Labor government will deliver the most significant investment in economic infrastructure since the railways of the 19th century. The railways made Queensland's future during the second industrial revolution. Our investment in renewable energy will make Queensland's future for the clean energy industrial revolution. We are only able to do this because we are committed to keeping progressive coal royalties. Queenslanders can take that to the bank.

Independent modelling released today by Deloitte Access Economics forecasts that our 75 per cent emissions reduction target by 2035 will deliver \$430 billion in additional value for the Queensland economy supporting an additional 415,000 jobs, with 85 per cent of those in the regions. Our regions have the most to lose from failing to act and the most to gain from our world-leading economic plan.

They also have the most to lose from the LNP's nuclear plan. By fighting for Queensland's clean economy future, we will make Queensland the destination of choice around the world for investment and clean economy jobs.

We are delivering the investment in a critical minerals industry for Queensland—a critical minerals industry that unlocks more mining jobs and more manufacturing jobs. We will make batteries, process minerals and manufacture metals right here in Queensland. We are already starting to see that investment, with Multicom starting Queensland's first vanadium mine and Vecco processing vanadium electrolyte in Townsville—the start of an entirely new vanadium mining industry in Queensland.

Yesterday I was with Alpha HPA in Gladstone which is making high-purity alumina for semiconductors and LEDs. Our investment in CopperString will both make electricity prices more affordable in the North West Minerals Province and power that province with renewable energy. The SuperGrid unlocks a new hydrogen industry in Queensland, building on the expertise of our established LNG industry. The hydrogen industry will allow for Queensland's sunshine and wind energy to be used to power trains and trucks, and hydrogen turbines at our clean energy hubs will support our power system during extreme weather events from climate change.

Hydrogen allows for the transport of renewable energy to power our nation and our trading partners. Just last week I attended the opening of the world's largest hydrogen electrolyser factory in Gladstone with Fortescue Future Industries—a project proudly backed by our government—marking the start of a world-leading renewable technologies manufacturing industry in Queensland and a renewables manufacturing industry that also supports blue-collar jobs in our existing manufacturing industry, with steel made in Australia and fabricated at AllCon Steel in Queensland going into the Aldoga Solar Farm in Gladstone.

Queensland is now leading the nation in the delivery of new renewable energy projects, including the largest solar farm in Australia and one of the largest wind farms nearing completion. With any significant change, it is important to ensure the benefits flow to regional communities. That can only be achieved through proper engagement and consultation. That is why we have the \$200 million down payment on the Regional Economic Futures Fund to support regional communities with transition. Through the Renewable Energy Zone Roadmap, we are delivering on local energy partnerships to ensure that regional communities are heard and we are legislating the Job Security Guarantee to ensure that energy workers are guaranteed access to ongoing employment opportunities in regional communities—a guarantee only possible if we keep owning our power generation assets into the future. That builds on the historic Energy Workers' Charter co-signed by government, unions and the government owned corporations. I acknowledge the energy workers in the gallery today and the ETU. We kept our assets in public hands in large part thanks to your support, and thanks to your support we are locking in your jobs for the future.

We understand the importance of supporting our existing sectors with the legislation of sector plans. The sector plans will support the decarbonisation of our existing mining industry to make it more globally competitive, to support our agricultural sector to find new ways to lower emissions and be even more competitive through improving water efficiency and cheaper renewable energy, and to unlock a new natural capital industry in Queensland by working with our First Nations peoples and farmers as the stewards of the land to deliver more economic benefits for our regions.

I want to recognise here that our progress to date on emissions reduction and the achievement of these targets is dependent on maintaining our strong vegetation management laws—laws that the LNP and the Leader of the Opposition personally voted against and are on the record as opposing. We are committed to fighting for a better future for Queenslanders by delivering these bills here today. Our economic plan is backed by economic modelling. It shows that we are fighting for a future with more union good-paying jobs, a better standard of living for households and improved affordability for businesses. We are fighting for a future where we make things here in Queensland, where we have quality jobs in our regions for our children and where we protect our natural environment for our kids so they can grow up to have the jobs of the future—one powered by stored renewable energy, not by nuclear reactors.