



Speech By
Hon. Mark Furner

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

Record of Proceedings, 18 September 2025

PRIVATE MEMBER STATEMENT

Renewable Energy; Drugs, Testing

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (2.13 pm): I rise to speak about Queensland's record on renewable energy. Under the previous government Labor made the transition to renewables, and it was the centrepiece of our energy policy through our Energy and Jobs Plan. This is a plan which has already delivered for Queensland. It is a blueprint for leveraging Queensland's natural advantages in the renewable energy revolution. Labor's record has been clear. When we came into office in 2015, less than one per cent of Queensland's energy was produced by large-scale renewables such as wind and solar farms. By the second quarter of 2024, that figure was over 22 per cent. That is a 22-fold increase in nine years, and it does not even include the increase in domestic rooftop solar.

Conversely, the record of those opposite is quite clear. This government has cancelled multiple renewable projects that are already in the pipeline, including wind farms at Moonlight Range and the 1.2-gigawatt Forest Wind project in the state owned pine plantations on the Fraser Coast. The government has suggested there are widespread community concerns—although the local MP has indicated there is very little concern from constituents, with most not even aware of the project.

The government have adopted ideologically-driven legislation which empowers opponents to block renewable projects but silences the voices of support. I note also that the legislation in no way empowers communities to reject coal, oil or gas projects—just renewables. They have cancelled important renewable projects, prioritised gas and extended the life of coal-fired power to make up the shortfall they are creating through axing renewables. Added to this, they are leaving Queensland families behind by ending household and business energy rebates. The government say they are committed to the future and say they are open for business, but the facts are clear. Cancelling \$3 billion worth of renewable energy supply can only lead to energy prices going one way, and that is up.

In the House today we have a debate on an important health bill. We have heard reports in the media that the government will rush through amendments for pill testing. This is a sinister act against those who are most vulnerable in our communities. It is about time they tabled that amendment and were up-front. They should not come in here in the dark hours of the night with a scurrilous amendment that no-one has seen and that we will not have an opportunity to debate. Let us be serious and treat this place as a house of parliament rather than a playpen of the Premier. We need to deliver for those vulnerable people who need the support that this opposition provided when we were in government. We will continue to fight for these people. Those opposite have forgotten them. The government will certainly not be remembered for their actions in this House.

(Time expired)