

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 885

asked on 17 September 2015

MS GRACE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR MAIN ROADS, ROAD SAFETY AND PORTS AND MINISTER FOR ENERGY AND WATER SUPPLY (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide an update on the government's solar state initiatives aimed at expanding Queensland's renewable energy industry?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government is committed to a renewable energy future for Queensland and to working with the community, industry and other stakeholders to better understand the challenges and opportunities for driving greater uptake of all forms of renewable energy in the State. Key policy initiatives such as setting a target for Queensland to have one million solar rooftops, or 3000 megawatts (MW) of installed solar photovoltaic (PV) capacity by 2020 and examining a 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030 through an independent public inquiry, are important for the future development of renewable energy in Queensland.

The solar rooftops target will help to grow and diversify the uptake of solar PV. With approximately 1400 MW currently installed on more than 400,000 homes and businesses in Queensland, the Queensland Government is setting an ambitious target. Complementing the target is a review into a fair price for solar which the Productivity Commission has been tasked with. An issues paper will be released in coming months for consultation.

The Government's specific plans for the development of large-scale solar were announced on 9 September 2015 with the launch of *Solar 60*. The Government will be supporting up to 60 MW of extra capacity from large-scale solar in collaboration with the Australian Renewable Energy Agency.

Additionally, state-owned distributor Ergon Energy has recently released an expression-of-interest seeking to enter into power purchase agreements for up to 150 megawatts of renewable energy.