

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 98

asked on 15 February 2017

MRS J GILBERT ASKED THE MINISTER FOR MAIN ROADS, ROAD SAFETY AND PORTS AND MINISTER FOR ENERGY, BIOFUELS AND WATER SUPPLY (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise on any renewable energy projects planned for the Mackay Whitsunday and Isaac region?

ANSWER:

As at 17 February 2017, the Government is aware of seven renewable energy projects planned for the Mackay, Whitsunday and Isaac region, with the potential to deliver approximately \$1.2 billion of investment and around 880 construction jobs to the region. The projects include:

- Collinsville Solar Farm, 42 MW;
- Whitsunday Solar Farm, 58 MW;
- Kelsey Creek Solar Farm, 50 MW;
- Koberinga Solar Farm, 55 MW;
- Mirani Solar Farm, 60 MW;
- Collinsville North Solar Project, 100 MW; and
- Clarke Creek Solar Farm, 200 MW.

While each project is at a different stage of development, two of these projects – Collinsville Solar Farm and Whitsunday Solar Farm – have received grant funding from the Australian Renewable Energy Agency, and are expected to commence construction early 2017. In addition, the Queensland Government will provide financial support to the Whitsunday Solar Farm through the Solar 150 initiative.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to increasing the uptake of renewable energy throughout the state. This is a vital step towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions, while creating new jobs and diversifying the economy.

In the last year, Queensland has seen the commitment of over 1000 megawatts (MW) of new, large-scale renewable energy projects. When these projects are constructed, they will more than double Queensland's large-scale renewable energy capacity and deliver around 2000 direct jobs and \$2.1 billion in investment.

These projects are part of a broader pipeline of around 4200 MW of solar, wind, biomass, hydro and geothermal projects. More and more of these projects are coming forward, thanks to the attractive investment environment the Palaszczuk Government is creating in Queensland.

Importantly, Queensland's regional communities stand to benefit from the development of the state's renewable energy industry, with the majority of proposed projects located in regional areas.