

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1629

asked on Thursday, 17 October 2019

MR E SORENSEN ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, MINES AND ENERGY (HON DR A LYNHAM)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how many solar farms in Queensland are generating electricity for government owned corporations, and how many are owned by the State Government outright?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government's support for renewable energy has given confidence to investors, and Queensland has seen an unprecedented boom in renewable generation, with more than 2500 megawatts of large-scale solar and wind projects commencing operations or currently under construction.

Once all projects are completed, they will have created more than 4500 construction jobs and brought investment into the state of over \$5 billion. Many of these projects are located in regional Queensland, helping provide jobs and other economic benefits to local communities.

There are currently 32 large-scale solar farms operating or under construction, and these have been delivered by the private sector. These have generally been underpinned by revenue support contracts and power purchase agreements.

The Queensland Government has provided support to four of the first solar farms to be built in Queensland through the Solar 150 initiative. Projects supported through this initiative are Canadian Solar's Oakey 1 and Longreach Solar Farms, Edify Energy's Whitsunday Solar Farm and Genex's Kidston Solar Farm. These projects are provided with long-term revenue guarantees through Solar 150, with contracts currently managed by the Stanwell Corporation on behalf of the state.

In addition, Queensland Government-owned corporations have entered into power purchase agreements with two solar farms on a commercial basis. Ergon Energy has a power purchase agreement with Lilyvale Solar Farm, and CS Energy has a power purchase agreement with Kennedy Energy Park.

To further support investment in renewable energy, including solar, the government has established CleanCo—a new government-owned energy business which has a mandate to deliver 1000 megawatts of new renewable energy capacity by 2025. This will be achieved by building, owning and operating new renewable energy projects and by contracting the output from investment in new renewable projects by others.

This commitment will ensure that Queensland remains on target to reach 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030.