

Question on Notice

No. 438

Asked on 28 March 2019

MR S ANDREW ASKED DEPUTY PREMIER, TREASURER AND MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PARTNERSHIPS (HON J TRAD)—

QUESTION:

Will the Deputy Premier advise the total number of ‘man-hours’ of employment created by renewable energy projects, for workers who are actually local residents in the Bowen Basin coalfields?

ANSWER:

Queensland is leading the way in the renewable energy sector, according to Australian Bureau of Statistics data released in April 2019.

Queensland accounts for 29 per cent of total renewable energy sector employment in Australia.

5,080 Queenslanders were employed in the renewable energy sector as of mid-2018.

Available data from the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy indicates that for projects specific to the North Queensland, Mackay-Isaac-Whitsunday and Central Queensland regions, which contain the Bowen Basin, indicates there are up to 2,770 construction jobs supported by renewable energy projects under construction in the region.

More importantly, consistent with the Government’s strong focus on supporting regional jobs, the unemployment rate in the Bowen Basin has fallen to 3.5% in 2018 from 9.6% in March quarter 2015 when the Palaszczuk Government’s first term started.

This is in stark contrast to the record of the former LNP Government. Not only were 14,000 public service jobs lost, the LNP also oversaw the loss of 2,330 jobs in renewable energy.

The Palaszczuk Government has approved \$20 billion worth of resource projects over four years supporting more than 7,000 long-term jobs, including around 700 jobs in projects located in the Bowen Basin.

‘Man-hours’ is not a recognised measure recorded by the Queensland Government Statistician or the Australian Bureau of Statistics for employment data.