

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 91

asked on Wednesday, 5 February 2020

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister outline how the AGL/VENA Energy Battery project will benefit the people of Queensland and the electorate of Greenslopes?

ANSWER:

On 29 January 2020, AGL and Vena Energy announced the companies' deal to build a 100 megawatt battery near Wandoan on the Western Downs.

By developing this battery, AGL and Vena Energy Australia are showing that Queensland's renewable energy industry is progressing from not just generating clean power but now storing it.

The lithium ion battery will be one of the biggest in Australia and will be able to take and deliver 100 megawatts of energy into and out of the National Energy Market, and store up to 150 megawatt hours of energy. It will be Queensland's biggest battery and will create 30 jobs during the construction period, providing direct benefits into the local economy.

The best way to put downward pressure on energy prices is to increase supply by adding generation. Queensland is already a renewable energy powerhouse and this battery offers the opportunity to store excess solar and wind power generated during the day and then dispatch it during peak demand times.

The delivery of this battery means that the increasing penetration of low-cost renewable energy can be available to businesses and households at the times when it is needed.

Queensland has seen \$5.5 billion worth of investment in renewable energy projects since December 2016, creating 5000 jobs and increasing renewable energy generation capacity in Queensland's electricity grid to more than 5500 megawatts.

This investment demonstrates industry's strong confidence in Queensland's growing clean energy industry. It is also ensuring that Queensland will remain well on track to reach its target of 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030.