

Question on Notice
No. 76
Asked on Wednesday, 22 February 2023

MR S ANDREW ASKED MINISTER FOR ENERGY, RENEWABLES AND HYDROGEN AND MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND PROCUREMENT (HON M DE BRENNI)

Will the Minister advise what the government is currently doing in terms of liaising with the Queensland sugar industry, with regard to developing and expanding Mackay Sugar's highly efficient cogeneration activities, and its potential for providing important economic and environmental benefits to Mackay and surrounding regions?

ANSWER

The Palaszczuk Government's Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan (QEJP) sets a vision to transform Queensland's electricity system to deliver clean, reliable and affordable power.

This QEJP will build the new Queensland SuperGrid – the renewable energy, storage and network infrastructure we need to power our industries, businesses and homes – and to deliver our targets of 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030, 70 per cent by 2032 and 80 per cent by 2035.

Mr Jannik Olejas, the Chair of the Australian Sugar Milling Council (ASMC) who is also the Chief Executive Officer of Mackay Sugar Limited, wrote on 8 February 2023 that the sugar "sector is energised by the opportunity to contribute to the dual goals of increasing Queensland's renewable energy supply while reducing emissions following the release of the Queensland Energy & Jobs Plan".

Action 1.9 of the QEJP is specifically focused on advancing Queensland's bioenergy future. The Palaszczuk Government is investing \$4 million to work with industry to investigate options and pathways to expand generation from underutilised biomass waste streams and support technology innovation.

The Palaszczuk Government looks forward to continuing to engage with the sugar industry to help unlock the opportunities for the sector.