

**Question on Notice
No. 350
Asked on Thursday, 21 March 2024**

MR M BERKMAN ASKED MINISTER FOR ENERGY AND CLEAN ECONOMY JOBS
(HON M DE BRENNI)

With reference to projected sea level rises and the Queensland Government webpage titled 'Sea level rise projection' last updated on 31 August 2018—

Will the Minister advise (a) if it is the department's current position that sea levels are projected to rise by approximately 0.8 metres by 2100, (b) any plans the department has to update these projections to account for more recent science including the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report and (c) any work the department has done, including collaborating with the Planning Department and Environment Department, to take the current climate science into account?

ANSWER

The Miles Government believes in the science of climate change and associated risk of sea level rise.

Rising emissions globally and domestically will likely lead to elevated seas levels, and a range of other undesirable impacts, particularly around extreme climatic events, such as bushfire, coral bleaching, cyclones and extended droughts in our farmlands, events which are increasingly unnatural with greater frequency and intensity.

Queensland is on the front line of these risks, to our economy, our environment and way of life.

Reducing emissions is crucial to creating a shared and prosperous future for all Queenslanders.

Legislating a 75% emissions reduction target by 2035 has secured blue-collar jobs in our regions, protected our agricultural industry and enabled by a world-leading response to climate change to safeguard the Great Barrier Reef.

The Clean Economy Jobs legislation passed last week sets up Queensland's economy for the next century by securing jobs in our existing manufacturing, agriculture and resources industries and unlocking investment in new industries including renewables manufacturing, critical minerals, hydrogen, and sustainable aviation fuel.

Queensland has led the way, reducing more tonnes of emissions than any other State or Territory in Australia, achieving a 35% reduction on 2005 levels. We have taken renewable energy from 7% to above 27% with over 60 large scale wind and solar farms built or committed including the largest solar farm in the nation.

Our government is setting out a responsible pathway to lead the nation on reducing tonnes of carbon emissions through to 2035 while developing sector-based plans to support our existing industries grow even more jobs and export opportunities.

For the world to reach net zero by 2050 Queensland needs to be a central part of that journey.

Our first sector-based plan is the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, targeting 70% renewable energy by 2032 and 80% by 2035. With a strong pipeline of wind and solar farms the Plan is firmed by two proposed Pumped Hydro Energy Storage (PHES) projects, a 2GW 24 hour project at Borumba near Gympie and the world largest PHES proposal, the Pioneer-Burdekin 5GW 24 hour project behind Mackay.

These transformative projects are still undergoing a range of assessments prior to final investment decision and environmental approvals but are essential to achievement of both our renewable energy and emissions reduction targets. Without these projects, more coal and gas will have to be burned for longer, and at far higher cost to the Queensland energy consumer, as well as exacerbating possible sea level rises.

Working at this scale means Queensland is doing its bit, ensuring as far as possible other jurisdictions do their bit, and in turn keep sea levels to projections contained within the most recent IPCC projections.

The Queensland Government adopted 0.8 of a metre of sea level rise by 2100 for mapping coastal hazards and to support consistent planning under the State Planning Policy.

The 0.8 metre value for sea level rise is based on the median value of projections using a very high emissions scenario described in the Fifth Assessment Report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

The most recent Sixth Assessment Report from the IPCC provides more detail on sea level rise projections based on a newer generation of climate models.

For example, the latest report suggests a likely range of sea level rise to be about 0.3 to 0.6 of a metre under a low emissions scenario or about 0.6 to 1 metre under a very high emissions scenario.

In this latest report, the median value of the likely range for a very high emission scenario is about 0.8 metre by 2100, which is consistent with the current Queensland Government information on coastal hazards for planning purposes.

Interjurisdictional consistency is an important consideration in setting the amount of sea level rise that should be considered for different purposes.

Through the Energy and Climate Change Ministerial Council, the Queensland Government will continue to work with other jurisdictions and the Commonwealth to consider the latest science on sea level rise, the implications for planning policy, assessments of climate risk, and appropriate risk management responses.

Queensland's *Planning Act 2016* and the *Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995* work together to guide land use planning and development assessment decisions on Queensland's coast.

Should the interjurisdictional work result in a new recommendation on sea level rises, the Department of Energy and Climate will work with other relevant Queensland Government

departments, including the Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works and the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation, to ensure the land use planning framework and development assessment decisions are appropriately informed.