

RENEWABLES

Powering Queensland's future



**NORTHERN
QUEENSLAND**
Publicly-owned 3GW
Sun + Wind + Storage

PUBLIC RENEWABLES

Powering Queensland's Future

Queensland has two natural advantages over other states in Australia, we can build on them!

- Sun and wind in abundance.
- Already existing **public ownership** of significant parts of the energy industry.

The renewable energy revolution is happening.

It is Labor's job to ensure not only that the transition occurs, but that it is a **just transition** and in the interests of all Queenslanders.

THE SUNSHINE STATE

Northern Queensland has some of the best renewable energy resources on the planet. That's why we are called the Sunshine State. We have installed solar on our rooftops faster than any other state in Australia. An amazing 450,000 solar rooftops combined are already the second largest power "station" in Queensland.

Queensland Labor is committed to ensuring 50% of our electricity is generated from renewables by 2030. This is good policy that we can be proud of.

The next big question is how? We must accomplish this task by providing secure, affordable electricity for all Queenslanders. And we must do it in a way that benefits Queenslanders, using our amazing world-class resources.

PRIVATISATION OF ELECTRICITY

Queenslanders know privatising essential services is a bad idea. What's more Queenslanders know the "productivity gains" from privatisation are code words for cutting jobs, cutting services and stripping regions. Premiers Bligh and Newman both found out how strongly we, the people, feel about this at the ballot box.

QUEENSLAND. RENEWABLE ENERGY POWERHOUSE.

A Queensland First Plan

What about a big vision for Northern Queensland?

A future where the government leads, owns and plans the creation of Northern Queensland as a Renewable Energy Powerhouse for Australia!

To reach 50% renewable energy by 2030, Queensland will need about 5 gigawatts of new renewable generation as well as storage to ensure it is reliable. Some of this generation is already in the pipeline, to be built and owned by the private sector.

The Labor Environment Action Network believes the Queensland Government should plan, build and retain ownership of at least 3 gigawatts of wind and solar farms over the next decade. These generators should be built in Northern Queensland, creating a world-leading industry for the region.

Three gigawatts of renewable energy generation will power about 1.5 million Australian homes. Half a gigawatt of storage will make this power available at any time. Private investment in renewable energy is positive but we need to make sure the public also remains a key player in Queensland's electricity system.

Over time we can build a state export industry in Northern Queensland that creates renewable energy for the rest of Australia and the world.

Renewable energy is already creating jobs in Northern Queensland. There is \$1.6 billion worth of investment in projects currently being constructed. This will provide 960 jobs. **But with public investment, we can do more!**

WHAT IS STORAGE?

Storage means that renewable energy is available even when the sun doesn't shine and the wind doesn't blow. With storage, renewable energy is just as reliable, if not more, than the old base load power model dominated by coal-fired power stations. You hear a lot about battery storage and innovators like Elon Musk and Tesla. We don't need such high-tech solutions. We have the expertise we need already in Queensland.

For example, pumped hydro storage is cheap, reliable, with a small environmental footprint. It works by building a small lake at the top and bottom of a natural drop. It involves no rivers or natural water systems and needs only a small amount of water used in a closed loop. When the wind is blowing or the sun shining we use the excess energy to pump water to the top of the system. When the wind or sun is unavailable – such as at night time – we use gravity and release the water to flow down the pipes creating

electricity using traditional hydro power turbines.

Queensland has experience in building water storages. Let's build this industry and export this Northern Queensland know-how. An old gold mine in Kidston is currently being converted to a renewables-powered, pumped hydro storage site. ANU modelling shows there are plenty more such locations available.



WHAT PUBLIC OWNERSHIP CAN DELIVER

Public ownership will be cheaper. The state government can borrow money at much lower interest rates than the private sector. The spend does not come out of the budget and has guaranteed returns through sales of electricity. Currently, we pay more to cover the higher borrowing costs of privately-owned infrastructure **plus** their expectations of big profits in our electricity bills.

If it is a cost of living argument, public ownership is the answer!

Public ownership provides revenue for public services.

The revenue from electricity generators will help fund future hospitals, schools and essential services. Last year Queensland's publicly-owned electricity system returned more to the state than mining.

Public ownership allows for careful planning, and secure job creation. A planned roll-out locks in efficiency, new technologies and sound industrial relations including employment and skill development unlike the market-driven, short-term employment of private sector investment. This planning will avoid unexpected early closures of existing plants.

Public investment means Northern Queensland can become a region that leads the country in building pumped hydro, in fabricating solar support structures and managing integration with the grid.

With a major public investment in new growth industries, we can expect to build businesses, expertise, opportunities and jobs for the 21st century.

All in Northern Queensland.

We can put the solar and wind farms, and the storage, near where people need jobs and where they live – not just where the private sector finds it easiest.

Queensland Labor, by committing to such industrial sized regional roll-out, can attract expertise to help build

industries in Northern Queensland that can compete on a world stage.

We can expect those wanting us to buy their technology to set up manufacturing in our region. We can insist that our people are trained, including decent numbers of apprentices skilled up and given promising futures, secure jobs with fair working conditions **based on sound industrial relations practices.**

Public ownership gets it done. The market has failed to deliver reliable, affordable and climate friendly power. Markets aren't the best in emergencies. Time is wasted and inefficiencies created in delaying until we get the incentives right to mobilise private investment. The government can just act and build and get it done.

Business constantly complains that the policy uncertainty in Australia discourages investment and increases the cost of borrowing. Government ownership avoids these issues.

Public ownership best protects the public interest. In a highly corporatised sector, like electricity, profit driven entities "game the system" to maximise profits. This is how we get perverse outcomes like generators not being turned on even when there is an urgent need for more energy. Even government-owned corporations have too often acted like private entities in failing to serve consumer interest. We need a new model of governance where return on investment is balanced by the need to serve the public interest and deliver positive social, environmental and economic outcomes.

A new entity, a Queensland Renewable Energy Agency, should be created to plan, build, own and operate these publicly-owned renewable energy assets, for Queenslanders, by Queenslanders. This will ensure the Queensland public remains a major player in the energy market, keeping our electricity supply secure for future generations.

Most importantly through public ownership we can offer a real plan and build significant opportunities for Northern Queensland – genuine regional development.



WHAT ABOUT ELECTRICITY PRICES?

Wind and solar are now cheaper to build and run, when taking account of the upfront capital costs, and the almost zero cost for fuel, and much lower maintenance costs, since maintenance is simpler and cheaper for renewables. This is known as the levelised cost of energy (LCOE), which is at about

\$75 per MWh for wind and solar, and falling, while for coal it is about \$80 per MWh, and rising. Modelling tells us that building renewables will be cheaper than building new coal and gas, putting strong downward pressure on wholesale electricity prices. Even when Tony Abbott commissioned a climate sceptic to lead a review into the Renewable Energy Target, he concluded that renewable energy would bring down electricity prices over time.

THE MOTION

3GW Publicly Owned Sun + Wind Power + Storage in Northern Queensland

Queensland Labor is to be congratulated for their policy commitment to ensuring 50% of Queensland's electricity is generated from renewable energy by 2030. This is a bold objective that is essential if we are to limit escalating climate change.

Changes to the current private, profit-driven, competition-based electricity system are needed to deliver secure power supply.

We note the people of Queensland continue to oppose the privatisation of essential services and the sale of state-owned assets.

Queensland Labor can lead the nation by ensuring the public sector continues to be a major player in the Queensland electricity market by building publicly-owned renewable energy.

MOTION

This Branch calls on the Queensland Labor Government to ensure the management of the energy industry delivers the supply of energy in the public interest, and to maximise the benefits of public ownership, driven by the goal of providing affordable, reliable electricity to Queenslanders while reducing pollution.

It calls on the Queensland Labor government to create a Queensland Renewable Energy Agency, to deliver local, long-term job creation, sound industrial relations and training opportunities through a Queensland first plan to build at least 3 gigawatts of publicly-owned large scale renewable energy and half a gigawatt of storage in Northern Queensland over the next decade.

WHAT TO DO NEXT

As members of Queensland Labor our voices are important. Our local branches and State Electoral Councils energise the Party across the state. It is vital we work together to amplify our voices, ensuring Labor delivers climate action that benefits all Queenslanders.

1. Pass the motion!

2. Let LEAN know you've passed the motion. When we ran the successful 50/50 campaign to have Federal Labor adopt strong climate change policy 370 local branches across Australia passed a motion in support. This list was essential in convincing the leadership to act. Email your motion and branch details to qld@lean.net.au

3. Take a selfie of the branch or SEC with a placard that reads: Renewables: Powering Queensland's future. Make sure you send the photo to LEAN and all the other emails.

4. Write to Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk, Energy Minister Mark Bailey and other key players to let them know you've passed the motion. We suggest you include the following decision makers:

- **Hon Anastacia Palaszczuk, Premier, Minister for the Arts:** thepremier@premiers.qld.gov.au
- **Hon Mark Bailey, Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports, Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply:** energyandwatersupply@ministerial.qld.gov.au

- **Hon Jacklyn (Jackie) Trad, Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning:** deputy.premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au
- **Hon Dr Steven Miles, Minister for Environment, Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef:** environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au
- **Dr Anthony Lynham, Minister for State Development, Minister for Natural Resources and Mines:** sdnrm@ministerial.qld.gov.au
- **Evan Moorhead, State Secretary, Qld ALP:** state.secretary@qld.alp.org.au
- **Noah Carroll, ALP National Secretary:** National.secretary@abr.alp.org.au
- **Bill Shorten, Federal Leader:** Bill.Shorten.MP@aph.gov.au
- **Mark Butler, Federal Energy Shadow Minister:** Mark.Butler.MP@aph.gov.au

5. Discuss your branch's commitment to the motion with your State and Federal Labor representatives, SEC and conference delegates. Ask them to represent your branch's concern to the Parliamentary Party and ask for a report on how it went.

6. Spread the word. Talk to your union, comrades and anyone else you can think of about the call for publicly-owned renewable energy for all Queenslanders.

If you would like to know anything more about the campaign or want to get involved, email Peter Casey in Southern Queensland at qld@lean.net.au or Susan Pearce in Northern Queensland at susan.pearce54@gmail.com.