

**In the last five years Queensland has proven the doubters wrong who said renewable energy was too expensive and too insignificant to make a difference.**

Beginning in 2016 there was a boom in wind and solar farm construction that in combination with thousands of households and businesses installing solar on their rooftops will lift renewables from just 7% of Queensland’s power consumption to 23% by 2021.

The surge in solar in particular has driven down wholesale power prices, which during the 9am to 3pm period are at their lowest levels in a decade. Last May the average price during 9am to 3pm was just \$12 per MWh whereas in 2016 it was \$67.

However the sector is now becoming a victim of its own success in driving down power prices. The boom in renewable energy construction activity is turning to a bust just at the wrong time for the Queensland economy. Over 2019 there was not a single utility-scale solar or wind farm committed to construction and those committed to construction over 2016 to 2018 are now largely complete.

The announcement of the Queensland Government CleanCo that it will contract power from the proposed Macintyre Wind Farm and Western Downs Solar Farm were a badly overdue lifeline but unfortunately only partially softened the blow of the bust in project construction.

**Without further initiatives, Queensland will fall significantly short of its 2030 target of 50% renewable energy, with Green Energy Markets analysis showing that renewables will represent around 37.5% of consumption by 2030.**

Figure 1 – Queensland Renewable Energy Power Generation and Share of Consumption

