



The Hon Dr Anthony Lynham MP
Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy

Ref CTS 01010/20

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Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Cnr George and Alice Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to e-petition No. 3166-19, received by the House on 4 February 2020 and referred to me for response, regarding the utilisation of lower cost power generation technologies.

In response to the petition, I would like to highlight the remarkable progress of renewable energy in Queensland to date. Since 2016, Queensland has seen an unprecedented boom in renewable generation, with more than 36 large scale solar and wind projects either commencing operations or currently under construction.

Once completed, these projects will have created over 5000 construction jobs and brought investment into the state of over \$5.5 billion. Importantly, many of these projects are located in regional Queensland, helping provide jobs and other economic benefits to local communities.

Renewable energy can also place downward pressure on electricity prices by introducing more competition into the wholesale market, taking advantage of the high quality wind and solar resources in the state and putting more power back into consumers' hands. The recent addition of large-scale new capacity is already making a positive contribution to lower electricity prices as noted by the Queensland Competition Authority in the 2019-2020 price determination.

Regional power prices have come down every year for the last three years under the Palaszczuk Government. This compares with a 43 per cent increase over the term of the previous LNP government, under which no large-scale renewable projects were initiated.

While the recent growth in renewable energy is impressive, the Queensland Government understands the imperative of maintaining that growth and remains committed to the Queensland Renewable Energy Target (QRET) of 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030. That is why the Queensland Government established CleanCo, a new low-emission government-owned generation business, which commenced trading in the National Electricity Market on 31 October 2019.

CleanCo has a mandate to deliver 1000 megawatts of new renewable generation by 2025 as well as moving forward with up to 400 megawatts of renewable energy under the Renewables 400 reverse auction. CleanCo will also put downward pressure on electricity prices by increasing competition and by bringing more low cost renewables into the electricity generation market.

In delivering the QRET, the Queensland Government will maintain an affordable, secure and reliable electricity system for consumers, and ensure workforces and communities are treated equitably as the electricity system transitions.

I provide you with this response for tabling in accordance with Standing Order 125(3). Any enquiries regarding this response can be referred to Mr Simon Zanatta, Chief of Staff, on telephone 3719 7360.

Yours sincerely



Dr Anthony Lynham MP
Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy