



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

Our ref CTS 03099/20
Your ref A552502

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22 May 2020

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 23 April 2020 concerning petition No. 3221-19 received by the House on 22 April 2020, regarding the rejection of claims in petition 3166-19 as to the costs of renewable energy.

In response to the petition I would like to reiterate that the Queensland Government remains committed to delivering energy policy that maintains an affordable, secure and reliable electricity system for consumers, and ensures workforces and communities are treated equitably as the electricity system transitions.

As part of that commitment, the Queensland Government set the Queensland Renewable Energy Target (QRET) of 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030. Since 2015, 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.

Regional power prices have come down every year for the last three years under the Palaszczuk Government, with the recent addition of large-scale new capacity already making a positive contribution to lower electricity prices. The Queensland Competition Authority expects household and small business power bills to further fall by around 5 per cent in 2020-21 as additional renewable projects begin generating.

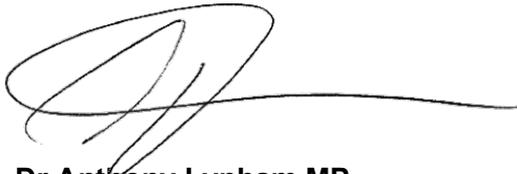
The government understands the imperative of maintaining growth. That is why we formed CleanCo, which commenced trading in the National Electricity Market on 31 October 2019.

CleanCo is delivering on its mandate of 1000 megawatts of new renewable generation by 2025 through the building of a new wind farm near Warwick. This project is part of the MacIntyre Wind Farm Precinct that will create 400 jobs and supply enough renewable electricity to power 700 000 homes. Construction of this project is expected to commence this year.

CleanCo will also put downward pressure on electricity prices by increasing competition and by bringing more low cost renewables into the electricity generation market.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'A' followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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