



David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

Media statement

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David Littleproud MP calls on Labor Qld Government to come clean on renewables

MARANOA MP David Littleproud said the Queensland Government was “as a see-through as cling wrap” as the Energy Minister attempts to sell Labor’s flawed renewable energy policy.

“I’m here to ask the tough questions and that’s exactly what I’m doing as to what Queensland Labor’s reckless rush to 50% renewable energy by 2030 will mean for Maranoa jobs and electricity prices,” Mr Littleproud said.

Mr Littleproud – whose vast electorate spans more than 42% of rural Queensland – has held the state’s Energy Minister to account and called for the Labor Government to release a detailed plan.

“I’ve obviously hit a nerve because the Energy Minister’s too busy attacking me during interviews rather than coming clean about the costings of this flawed plan,” he said.

“I can see through it – there’s no substance to this plan. Solar and wind cost about \$90MWh to produce against coal which is about \$30MWh so this is just economic vandalism.”

The Maranoa MP said his electorate would be particularly sensitive to this flawed renewable energy policy, set to drive-up electricity prices for our most vulnerable and lead to job insecurity.

“Labor’s report includes an option to close one of Queensland’s coal fired power stations – what does this mean for jobs connected to the Tarong Power Station and Meandu Mine in the South Burnett region?” he said.

“What will this mean for employment in the Western Downs that rely on the Kogan Creek Power Station or the Millmerran Power Station in the Darling Downs?”

“The Energy Minister has also failed to explain and cost this plan to Queenslanders as the report estimates taxpayers will have to pay \$900 million in subsidies to bring in green energy but the Queensland Productivity Commission says the real cost will be a staggering \$10.8 billion.”

Mr Littleproud said it made sense to capture Queensland’s sun through renewable energy – like the federally-funded solar projects at Longreach and Dalby in his electorate – but not at the cost of sky-high power prices.

“I’m critical because the likely outcome of this unrealistic target is that consumers, particularly those who can least afford it, will be hit hard by high energy prices in Queensland and we’ll go down a path like South Australia’s compromised energy security,” he said.

“The Coalition Federal Government is on track to meet and beat our Renewable Energy Target of 23.5% by 2020 and we’re set to achieve this through responsible and sustainable measures.

“With 40% renewable energy, South Australia has the most expensive electricity in Australia and is prone to blackouts – is this really the example that Queensland should be following? I don’t think so.”

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