



# Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs

Our Ref: CTS 09842/21  
Your Ref: A686043

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10 June 2021

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 13 May 2021 enclosing a copy of Parliamentary Petition No. 3497-21 concerning climate change.

I thank the petitioners for raising the issues of urgent climate action and want to assure them that the Palaszczuk Government is committed to strong action on climate change.

We have committed to three targets: achieving zero net emissions by 2050; powering Queensland with 50% renewable energy by 2030; and reducing emissions by at least 30% below 2005 levels by 2030 and as Minister for the Environment I am working across Government to ensure we achieve these targets.

We have committed to developing a Climate Action Plan 2020-2030 (Climate Action Plan) that focuses on ensuring Queensland industries, workers and communities see economic, health and other benefits from new technologies and a lower carbon economy.

The Climate Action Plan will map the pathway forward for the next decade, building on the significant climate action and investment already taken and ongoing.

Since our election in 2015 the Palaszczuk Government has committed more than \$4 billion in climate initiatives including:

- establishing CleanCo, Australia's only publicly-owned clean electricity generator, with a mandate to deliver 1,000 megawatts of new renewable generation by 2025;
- delivering the Queensland Electric Vehicle Strategy and Queensland Electric Super-Highway of publicly accessible electric vehicle charging points;
- delivering the Queensland Hydrogen Industry Strategy to facilitate a sustainable hydrogen industry;
- \$500 million Land Restoration Fund to support carbon farming opportunities, introduced following the reintroduction of strong vegetation management laws;
- \$15 million to establish the Queensland Hydrogen Industry Development Fund to support hydrogen projects in Queensland;
- supporting State schools to take up solar and energy efficiency through the Advancing Clean Energy Schools program and the Cooler, Cleaner Schools program;
- \$500 million to establish a Renewable Energy Fund for State-owned energy corporations to increase public ownership of commercial renewable energy projects and supporting infrastructure;

- \$145 million for transmission infrastructure to develop three Renewable Energy Zones in north Queensland, central Queensland and south-west Queensland. The three Renewable Energy Zones will be regionally-based power and jobs generators which will open more doors for more industrial zones, hydrogen hubs and manufacturing jobs;
- \$14.8 million to continue investigating the feasibility of the CopperString project—a transmission link from Townsville to Mount Isa to unlock renewable resources and connect the North West Minerals Province with the national electricity market;
- \$20 million for a Queensland Apprenticeships Centre to help position Queensland at the forefront of renewable hydrogen;
- \$10 million new economy minerals initiative to support exploration activity for new economy minerals for emerging technologies and products; and
- \$17 million to support industry to build a \$23 million state of the art renewable energy training facility in Brisbane.

There will be opportunity for public engagement on the Climate Action Plan late this year.

I trust that this information has been of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MS', with a horizontal line extending to the right from the bottom of the signature.

Meaghan Scanlon MP

**Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef**  
**Minister for Science and Youth Affairs**