



Speech by

JEFF SEENEY

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

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CALLIDE B POWER STATION

Mr SEENEY (Callide—NPA) (8.35 p.m.): Tonight, I want to make the House aware of the incredible maintenance job that is currently being undertaken at the Callide B Power Station at Biloela. One of the 320 megawatt generating units has been taken out of service for planned routine maintenance. Last week, I was privileged to inspect the maintenance operation in full swing. Over a 30-day shutdown period, every part of that massive unit is being tested and refurbished. In the seven-storey coal-fired boiler, the many miles of high-pressure steam pipe are being examined and X-rayed and replaced at many points. As well, modifications are being done, at the initiative of the local operators, to boost the unit's already impressive competitive efficiency.

I commend and salute the job that is being done by everybody at Callide B. I salute the very professional management team and the maintenance supervisors who demonstrated to me an incredibly detailed knowledge of and concern for that massive boiler and generating unit and who have planned and managed this maintenance operation to the minute. I salute particularly the fitters, the welders and the technicians who are working three shifts a day inside the boiler itself. The work that they are doing is incredible to witness as they labour in very difficult conditions under continual time pressure to refurbish the unit in the shortest possible time. I spent three hours inside that boiler with those men, talking to them and watching them carry out their difficult work in shocking conditions. I was awed at the skill levels and the overwhelming sense of commitment that they exhibited to their tasks, and I salute them all.

I have heard power station maintenance talked about in this place as though it is something that is carried out with an oilcan and a grease gun. The efforts of those people, currently working at Callide B as I speak, have been belittled and criticised as part of a political game being played by the "Minister for Apologising in Advance". It is totally unjust to blame the committed, professional and highly skilled people who operate and maintain our power stations such as Callide B for the power shortages that are the result of political decisions and ministerial failures.

Time expired.
