




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Renewable Energy

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.50 pm): Today we have seen more evidence of this Labor Party completely forgetting its roots and selling out those blue-collar workers in rural and regional areas. Not having learned the lesson from the disastrous federal government's proposal of a carbon tax, federal Labor is now advocating to close all coal-fired power stations across Australia—a move that would simply do one thing, and that would be drive up power prices. The other thing it would do is it would cruel hundreds of thousands of jobs across Queensland. I am a representative of one of those regions that has a power station that has been supported by the coalmine beside the power station supporting something like 600 direct jobs and thousands of indirect jobs in all the surrounding towns such as Maidenwell, Nanango, Yarraman, Wondai and Kingaroy, yet this minister stands in this House and advocates for renewable energy alternatives.

Let us talk about, for example, the proposed wind farm. That will be great and provide 10 jobs ongoing. The minister sat opposite and said it would provide 1,600 jobs across Queensland, but the minister's maths do not quite add up when there are 600 direct jobs at the power station in Kingaroy and he is proposing they be replaced by 10 jobs. Maths is obviously not the minister's strong point. It is incredible that we even have support from the CFMEU, which said—

Mass redundancies, especially in a regional area with limited other industries, can entrench high unemployment and social disadvantage and dysfunction that can take decades to repair, if ever.

The CFMEU goes on to say—

It should be acknowledged that the social impacts of power station closures in particular regions are not likely to be greatly different to the adverse impacts that have occurred in other regions hit by major industry closures.

Today the Premier needs to distance herself from federal Labor's forced closures policy. Today she should reassure the thousands of workers across Queensland employed by that industry that their jobs are safe and that she is not bending to the Greens agenda. Obviously the LNP supports an orderly, evidence based approach in the transition to renewables but, unlike Labor, we will not sell out jobs across rural and regional Queensland.