




Speech By
Hon. Curtis Pitt

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

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MOTION: ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (6.26 pm): I certainly rise to express my support for the diversified energy sector which is reliable, cost-effective and creates jobs. It feels like *deja vu*. It feels like we had this debate only last sitting week. I think we did. The debate was led by the member for Burleigh and he has come up with ‘hectares’ of great arguments right off the bat. It was followed by the member for Whitsunday doing his best Rupert McCall impersonation—again talking about nothing.

I looked down the list and I thought the member for Nanango had dropped off—but, no, there she is at the end. That means that the member for Callide dropped off. That is a shame. It would have been really good to have the member for Callide make a contribution. Why? Try as hard as he could, he could not get the Carmichael Mine off the ground. It took a Labor government to get that happening and get it to the stage that we have. He could not get a coalmine open, yet here he is arguing against making sure coal-fired power stations are not closed.

Let’s not forget the member for Nanango. She comes in, bringing up the tail for the opposition. Of course, this is the member who does not even want a coalmine in her own backyard. If we are so against coal-fired power stations on this side of the House, why did we campaign so hard to keep Stanwell in public hands? We fought so hard to keep it in public hands because we believe in baseload power and coal-fired power stations. It is absurd to come in here and attack us.

Who was the last government to close a coal-fired power station in Queensland? Was it our Labor government? No. It was the LNP—the former Newman-Nicholls government. They closed the last one down in 2012. When we look at where Stanwell’s office is going to be, why do they care about where Stanwell’s office is going to be? They did not know where it was going to be when they sold Stanwell off as part of their electricity sell-off. With all of the arguments they are putting forward, the rug, as the member for Hinchinbrook kindly brought up, has been pulled out from underneath them by their own members speaking.

In Queensland we know that the state energy market is secure. We went through this last sitting. It is secure with a very strong mix of baseload coal-fired power and hydro-generated power as well, complemented by renewables such as solar. We have a very diverse mix of energy in our state—a very reliable energy source for all Queenslanders.

This month, as we all are aware, we have experienced some extreme weather patterns here in Queensland. That is something that all of us should be concerned about. Without the diverse mix of power that we have we could have seen some very different outcomes. We have a very reliable system and it is because of that diverse mix. Our robust system in Queensland remains exactly that: robust and ready to meet Queenslanders’ expectations on energy demands, even during extreme heatwaves like we experienced.

The amendments moved by the Minister for Energy, again, show that the Palaszczuk government is committed to continuing to support our traditional baseload generation, but we are very cognisant of the fact that we have to move to more of a clean energy future. We understand that Queensland has to

play our part in tackling global warming. It is something that some of those opposite still do not get, although some of them do and I applaud them for that. However, we know that the LNP's broad and very narrow focus on coal-fired power stations only jeopardises our secure energy supply and puts energy jobs in the renewable sector at risk.

The Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, may go on about outdated coal-fired approaches to electricity generation, but the fact is our diversity is what makes our system so strong—

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr PITT:—and it is very disappointing that the shadow energy minister cannot acknowledge that fact. The LNP does not want to listen to independent reviews because it does not suit their political agenda. We know that they did not want to hear from the COAG Energy Council's Finkel review that their federal colleagues actually initiated. We are committed to the Finkel review process. That review makes it clear that it is not if we integrate renewables but how we get that up to speed with other countries that are making that transition that is a key point.

Those opposite are stuck in the Dark Ages yet again. They are bereft of ideas when it comes to motions in the House. This week we are having a repeat of the last sitting. What is it going to be next week? Are they going to change three letters in the motion and then have the same debate yet again? What we hear is echoing silence from the people of Queensland when it comes to those opposite. We know that on the same day that the member for Clayfield attacked Queenslanders' support of a renewable energy sector his mates in Canberra were caught out withholding advice on the blackouts in South Australia. They withheld that advice. The member for Clayfield said we should be falling into line with the federal government and then Mr Turnbull himself received advice that the South Australian blackout was not caused by renewables. I think Malcolm Turnbull should be less worried about what is happening in that space. He should be more worried about this tweet—

7 News Political Editor Mark Riley has been told the Queensland Nationals are considering a split from the Liberals.

They are smart. I table that tweet.

Tabled paper: Extract, undated, of a 7 News Brisbane Facebook link to an online article regarding the Queensland Nationals considering a split from the Liberals [[296](#)].