




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 28 February 2017

MOTION: ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (6.21 pm):
Mr Speaker—

Mr Pitt interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: We will just wait a moment. Thank you, Treasurer. You will have an opportunity soon.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: What a load of 'milliwatts' that was! They are so against the coal-fired and gas-fired generation industry that they bring out the big guns. They do not bring out the megawatts; they bring out 'Mr Milliwatts', the member for Logan.

We all know that it is only this side of the House that supports rural and regional Queensland, and there is no greater example of that than what we are arguing here today. We have a minister over there who is prepared to put the entire workforce of Stanwell in particular in jeopardy. We have evidence of this. Apart from the fact that this government has got rid of the corporate offices and moved them to Brisbane—they have taken them from their Rockhampton and Kingaroy bases and moved them to Brisbane, trying to justify that their community affairs office and head office staff, who should be based at Kingaroy and Rocky—guess where they are based? That is right—down here at Stanwell's head office. What an embarrassment and what a disgrace from this government.

This all comes from the fact that the reliability of their jobs is at risk because this government is so intent on closing our good generating coal-fired power stations. It is so intent at aiming towards a 50 per cent renewable target that is completely and utterly unachievable. We heard earlier the 'milliwatt' member—sorry, the member for Logan talk about the fact that—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Thank you, Ministers.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I hear the murmur of interjections degrading people, saying that they should not want to live in Kingaroy, that they should prefer their jobs to be down here. That is what is wrong with them over there. They do not understand that people should be able to choose where they want to live. If it is the case that Kingaroy can prosper because we have a coal-fired power station, good on us.

Dr Lynham: And a coalmine.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Also, we have a coalmine. We are very proud of our coalmine. I take that interjection. Meandu coalmine supports—and this is something that those over there do not get. They do not understand that the Meandu coalmine feeds the Stanwell Power Station. It is not some little start-up company that is scaring mum-and-dad investors that the minister over there is trying to—

Mr Seeney: As a lot of families do.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: A lot of families need that support but not from this minister over there. He does not support the Meandu coalmine supporting the power station. He refuses to support the over 600 workers that are based in the South Burnett. He certainly does not support all of the contractors who also—

Mr Cripps: He pulled the rug out from underneath them.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Hinchinbrook.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I digress.

Mr Cripps: Are you going to get them all jobs on the windmill?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection. It is those over there who genuinely believe that they can shut down—

Mr Seeney: Shut down coalmines.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON:—the coalmine that supports the power station. There you have it. They are going to shut down the coalmine. They are going to shut down the power station—over 650 direct jobs for the South Burnett. What are they going to replace it with? Ten jobs that support a couple of windmills! Guess what else they are going to be supporting? A fair few batteries and generators to kickstart the power for all of the businesspeople—all of the mums and dads—who are not going to have any power. According to the ‘milliwatt’ member for Logan, he wants us to go down the track of South Australia where, like the member for Whitsunday said, it is lights out—let’s light the candle.

More than that, those people will only be able to afford to light a candle because they will not be able to afford to turn on their electricity. There will be no electricity for them because there will be no jobs when they shut this power station down. There is no greater example of their lack of support for rural and regional Queensland than their scaremongering around shutting down the power stations. There is no greater community that deserves its coalmine and power station than Kingaroy.