




Speech By  
**Linus Power**

**MEMBER FOR LOGAN**

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**MOTION: ELECTRICITY SUPPLY**

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (6.15 pm): How the mighty have fallen. Once the Liberal Party stood on the national stage. Once they were kings of the national scene. Menzies stood on the national stage. 'Black Jack' McEwen, leading the National Party, had strong ideas about building industry. They fought the Labor Party tooth and nail across our national landscape. Fundamentally, it was the Labor Party creating a scene, but Menzies and 'Black Jack' McEwen were fighting them at every corner.

Now we see the Liberal Party and National Party have taken on a new enemy—not those that will create the nation, but [getup.org](#). That is their enemy. We see the member for Whitsunday and the member for Burleigh taking on the great enemy [change.org](#), such are their arguments. If we were to rely on the member for Whitsunday and the member for Burleigh to run our energy then God help Queensland.

We on this side of the House recognise the importance of our traditional energy sectors that contribute so much to the Queensland and the national economies and provide energy security. We saw the official policy of the LNP put forward by the member for Whitsunday that coal is king. Energy is king. Energy is what we need to drive our state forward.

We in Queensland are an energy powerhouse. While Queenslanders sweated through an unprecedented heatwave, Queensland's power system rose to the challenge. On Sunday, 12 February at 5 pm Queensland had reached a new demand record for electricity consumption of 9,000—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock! If I cannot hear the member speaking, I am certain Hansard cannot.

**Mr POWER:** We are an energy powerhouse. We reached a new record demand for electricity consumption of 9,369 megawatts. This is a significant event given that weekends typically have a lower demand than weekdays as a result of less commercial and industrial load. This breaks the previous record set on 18 January 2017. However, even when Queensland hit the maximum demand level, Queensland still had 548 megawatts in reserve capacity. The Queensland electricity sector has shown it is well placed to deliver Queensland's electricity demands even in periods of extremely high power demand. That is because Queensland has a diverse mix of generation, including baseload coal-fired generation, complemented by renewables and gas and is less reliant on other jurisdictions, on interconnector flows from other states. This diversity means that Queensland's power system continues to meet the electricity demand needs of Queenslanders, even during our heatwaves, and that we are well placed to manage the transition to a higher integration of renewable energy generation without compromising security of supply.

Queensland has a substantial baseload generation capacity, and there is no doubt that the sector will continue to play an important role. We have some of the youngest and least emissions-intensive coal-fired generators in Australia, along with a considerable stock of highly flexible and efficient gas-fired generation capacity. The efficiency of coal-fired generation has improved over time as knowledge of the various processes has developed. Improved materials and technology achieve higher pressures,

higher temperatures and higher efficiencies. Higher pressures are essential. I want to assure the member for Burleigh that pressure inside the power station is not measured in 'hectares'. In Queensland, the technologies used are subcritical and supercritical generators, with supercritical generators being the most efficient coal-fired generators in Australia.

Four of our eight generators are supercritical, being Callide C, Kogan Creek, Millmerran and Tarong North. Also, these supercritical generators were built relatively recently: Callide C in 2001, Millmerran in 2002, Tarong North in 2003 and Kogan Creek, which was opened as Australia's largest single turbine—

**Mr King:** Eight hundred megawatts.

**Mr POWER:** Eight hundred milliwatts, I am told.

**Mr King:** Megawatts.

**Mr POWER:** Megawatts. It was opened in 2007 and it complements Stanwell, which opened in 1996. It is clear that maintaining the state's existing traditional baseload generation fleet—

**Mr Hart** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Burleigh, will you desist from making continuous interjections?

**Mr POWER:** It is clear that maintaining the state's existing traditional baseload generation fleet while adding more renewable energy to the mix is the right way forward for Queensland when it comes to stabilising prices and transitioning to a lower emissions economy.