




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

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MOTION: ENERGY SUPPLY

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (6.28 pm): We all know that Tim Nicholls and the LNP will cut everything except your power bill. We know that for sure. When it comes to choosing advice from Matthew Warren or Andrew Cripps, I know who I would choose any day. One has to wonder how often you need to shred the pathetic policy from your own side before you give up on it, because that is what has happened to the LNP's pathetic and threadbare energy policy. With regard to this commitment to a North Queensland coal-fired power station, let us look at the list of people who have shredded Tim Nicholls's energy policy. For a start the Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, said that there will not be any new coal-fired power stations. The Treasurer, Scott Morrison, said that cheap new coal generation is a myth and takes seven years to turn up. In terms of the opposition's policy, let us presume—it is not factual—that it will work. It is going to take seven years to implement. What are those opposite going to do about electricity prices for the seven years until then? They do not have a policy. They are walking into an election without a policy. They have to be kidding us!

Let us look at the other groups that have shredded Tim Nicholls's energy policy. Alan Finkel, the Chief Scientist of this country and reviewer of the National Electricity Market, said that it is now not just a little bit cheaper but a lot cheaper to build renewable energy than it is to build a new coal-fired power station. He is the Chief Scientist of this country. Those opposite can deny reality all they like, but people looking back at this week's *Hansard* who have the misfortune of reading this debate will wonder how it is that in 2017 people are moving motions like this. Good luck explaining that one to your grandchildren! This morning Matthew Warren absolutely shredded Tim Nicholls's policy once again. He is the head of the Australian Energy Council. I thought that the LNP was supposed to support the private sector, but apparently not. The agrarian socialists have control of the place. As the Deputy Premier mentioned earlier, he has made some very specific comments. I will not repeat the quote read out by the Deputy Premier, but he said—

The places that really need new generation at the moment are not Queensland; it's Victoria and South Australia.

That is confirmed by the Australian Energy Market Operator, which says that there is no lack of supply in Queensland for the next 10 years—10 years because we have a very strong policy. Here we have Tim Nicholls's policy shredded by Scott Morrison, Malcolm Turnbull, Alan Finkel, Matthew Warren and the Australian Energy Council. Even the Australian Industry Group, another private sector lobby group, said that we would have to have prices sustaining themselves at double what they are now to pay for an expensive coal-fired power generation station. This is not a policy.

The member for Burdekin seems to be blissfully unaware that in his own electorate he has a solar farm going in that is going to power one-third of the Sun Metals zinc refinery as base load. He has solar base load in his own electorate yet he is telling us that with intermittency it is all going to collapse and it is all going to fall apart. He should talk to industry and maybe start standing up for the 800 people who have jobs because of clean energy in his electorate. The ignorance is amazing! The motion is also wrong on three factual—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Thank you, members. I am having difficulty hearing the minister.

Mr BAILEY: While we are talking about Matthew Warren, let us see who else he worked for. He also worked for Ian Macfarlane and that other renowned socialist, Tony Abbott. That one blew up in your face, didn't it, Andrew? You did not do your research there, pal, did you? The motion is not factual on other grounds. Coal-fired power stations are not low emission. Let us be truthful and honest here. Those opposite have to be kidding us if they say they are low emission. They will help cook the reef. They will accelerate climate change and it takes seven years for results. Members opposite have to do more than wave around cartoons from the *Gold Coast Bulletin* and the latest *Courier-Mail* article. They have to develop a policy. If they want to form government and if they want to earn the trust of the people, they have to do the hard yards and develop policy. We have oodles of policy such as the Powering Queensland Plan and the renewable energy task force. What do those on the other side have? They have an opposition shadow minister who waves around cartoons.

(Time expired)