




Speech By
Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

Record of Proceedings, 22 March 2017

MOTION: ENERGY INDUSTRY

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (6.26 pm): I joined the speaking list for tonight's debate very keen to support the minister's amendment to the proposed motion and to be part of a debate on a very important issue for this state and for this nation. That issue is our energy security and the balance that is needed between delivering part of a global energy market and supporting our great industries here in this state.

I really appreciated and welcomed the contribution made by the member for Mount Isa. I am going to reflect on it and give some guidance about why I think the minister's amendment is better going forward on this issue. I do want to reflect on the other speakers from the non-government benches we have heard from so far tonight. They did not really speak about the issues of gas policy and energy policy. We heard them speaking against the gas industry here in this state. In fact, they are supporters of moratoriums and other things that have been failed policies in other jurisdictions that have afflicted our energy market mix in this country.

In this state over a long period we have seen a bipartisan commitment to the development of a fantastic gas industry, a \$70 billion gas industry that is delivering for Queenslanders right across the length and breadth of this state but most particularly for Queenslanders in the west, the Surat Basin and the Bowen Basin. That of course has flowed on, quite literally, to the development of fantastic export industries based out of Gladstone Harbour. I also want to acknowledge the contribution made by the member for Gladstone in this debate.

Through the foresight, I acknowledge, of previous Labor governments in establishing this industry, we have seen a great industry established for the state of Queensland that plays an important role in the world's energy demands. It continues to get the balance right while we keep an eye on it in supporting our domestic industries as well. Successive governments in Queensland have been supported in getting that balance right. I do want to acknowledge that the LNP when in government handled themselves very well in relation to supporting the industry and its continued development. I do think they got a few things wrong—and I will make mention of that along the way—around getting the balance right. Getting the balance right in all of these issues of developing a new industry is something that we need to do. It is very important. It has been fantastic to see the achievement of the development of this industry in this state, going from the development of the coal seam gas industry through to the creation of LNG exports. It has been a huge commitment and a great effort made by government more generally. I particularly want to acknowledge the work that has been done by previous Labor governments in that space.

I hesitate to invoke the wrath of the member for Buderim by mentioning that one of the great champions in policy in this area in protecting and making sure that we get the balance right has been the Australian Workers' Union, a union that I am proud to be a member of. The Australian Workers' Union has been a great advocate in the space of getting the balance right for industry, and the export industry includes many of their members. In 2010 it was in fact the Labor government that appointed a gas commissioner to monitor and guide the development of the state's gas market in the context of the

then emerging LNG industry, and that was something which set these measures up quite well. It was the gas commissioner's role to work closely with industry and government agencies to identify any issues for the domestic gas market which may arise during the development of the LNG industry.

In support of that, as the minister for mining at the time I introduced the prospective Gas Production Land Reserve through the Gas Security Amendment Bill in 2011. That set up the framework to implement a prospective gas production land policy if domestic markets became supply constrained. We are now seeing another Labor government deliver on that measure through the pilot that has been referred to by the minister which was brought into action in the Surat on 10 February. That shows the way in which you can get the balance right to support our important industries that supply and rely upon gas, such as G James Glass on the north side of Brisbane.

(Time expired)