




Speech By
Colin Boyce

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

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ADJOURNMENT

Callide Electorate, Great Artesian Basin

 **Mr BOYCE** (Callide—LNP) (6.23 pm): Today I have heard the Labor members of this House speak of op shops, cupcakes and fat dogs. Most enthralling subjects! I want to inform the House of a proposed project to pump carbon dioxide into the Great Artesian Basin at Wandoan in the electorate of Callide. This is a highly contentious issue that most Queenslanders and in fact many parliamentarians are not aware of.

The company, CTSCo, Carbon Transport and Storage Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of Glencore, proposes to sequester approximately 200,000 tonnes of hypercritical CO₂ fluid into the precipice sandstone water aquifer of the Great Artesian Basin. The precipice sandstone water aquifer is the deepest and best of the water aquifers that make up the Great Artesian Basin. This is a trial project and it is in its science and data-gathering phase. Soon this company will make application to the Environmental Protection Agency—Minister Enoch's office—and the department of natural resources—Minister Lynham's office—to seek their approvals so that it can begin what can only be described as compromising and polluting the world's largest potable underground water source. On the world's driest habitable continent where water is the most precious resource, why are we even contemplating this?

CTSCo in partnership with Glencore has a memorandum of understanding with Chinese generating company Huaneng, the world's largest, and Millmerran Power Station. The Australian government has had a joint collaboration project with the Chinese government involving Huaneng in the construction of a 120,000 tonne per annum post carbon capture plant in Shanghai. This is the plant that CTSCo is looking to replicate and capture carbon dioxide and deliver to the Great Artesian Basin.

The Great Artesian Basin covers 70 per cent of Queensland. It is the world's largest underground potable water source. It is the eighth natural wonder of the world. It is the Great Barrier Reef of the outback. There are dozens of rural towns and hundreds of farmers and graziers who rely on the Great Artesian Basin for their water.

To even contemplate compromising this water source is outrageous and madness. We have seen the EPA's strict guidelines become an environmental disaster at the Linc Energy project at Chinchilla. The same rules will govern the CTSCo project at Wandoan. The people of rural Queensland do not want another environmental disaster that is irreparable. I urge the members of this House to speak to the ministers involved and put a stop to this project. It is something we must do to protect this vital resource for future generations and for the prosperity of rural Queensland.