



Speech By  
**Christopher Whiting**


**MEMBER FOR BANCROFT**

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Record of Proceedings, 26 March 2019

**MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Energy Policy**

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (2.32 pm): What about the unmitigated disaster of the Queensland Nationals' foray into federal energy policy? They thought a coal-fired power station would solve all of those woes. They went to their leader, Mr McCormack, but he could not deliver. They went behind his back to the Prime Minister. He said, 'We will look after you.' What did we hear today? He just announced that the LNP will get a feasibility study. Well done, LNP. That was well worth chopping down your federal leader for! It shows that they are divided and delusional and shows how ineffective their leadership is at the national level. It is brilliant tactics. It is the equivalent of rolling a hand grenade into the coalition party room, quickly shutting the door and locking it so no-one can get out.

The self-immolation of the federal Nationals in terms of the Queensland Nationals shows that they do not support Queensland's renewable energy economy. George Christensen said, 'Neither solar panels nor wind turbines nor fairy dust will supply the baseload power needs of the nation.' For someone who criticised Labor for not supporting industry in regional Queensland, that is quite rich. In fact, he is belittling an industry based in regional Queensland. These Nationals bumblerers at the national level do not know or care about the strength of the Queensland renewable energy economy. They do not know or care about those 18 large-scale projects that commenced over the last two years, delivering 1,700 megawatts of power into the national grid. They do not know or care about the 14 large-scale projects in construction that will deliver \$2.8 billion into our economy or about rooftop solar. With 600,000 homes in Queensland with rooftop solar, 2,000 megawatts is being pumped into the grid. Collectively, solar rooftops are the biggest generator of electricity in Queensland.

Yesterday Keith Pitt said that the Nationals want new power generation and competition. I do not know if he noticed, but we have built a new power station in Queensland—rooftop solar. Collectively, that is the biggest power plant in Queensland. He did not notice that or that we have introduced competition as well. We created CleanCo, which will introduce competition and better our local power generation economy. The question is: why do the Nationals not support renewable energy? The answer is that they have an ideological obsession about climate change.

**Mr Butcher** interjected.

**Mr WHITING:** I take that interjection from the member for Gladstone. They have this great fear that, if they support renewable energy, they must accept the science of climate change. They are determined either to prove climate change is wrong or to prove that it does not exist. If it does exist, it is not going to be a problem whatsoever. We in this parliament have seen the Nationals' aversion to climate change reality. Last term, I think only one member opposite said the words 'climate change' or 'so-called' climate change. That has continued on in this term as well. In the debate on the Mineral Water and Other Legislation Bill the member for Gregory said he was uncomfortable with climate change science being used to assess water plans. He said he wanted to see robust science untainted by green ideology. Therefore, science—

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr WHITING:** You are just proving my point here. I advise you to be quiet in this case.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr WHITING:** I am moving away from the best contribution yet of the member for Callide, who quoted a speech from a climate change denier that stated that global warming is not the issue; it is the return of the ice age. He said, 'Ice, not global warming, is the big killer and this recurring calamity often strikes quickly. Thousands of mammoths and other creatures were killed by ice storms.' I know that the mammoth hunter opposite mourns their loss, as do we all. The remaining Liberals on the other side have to put up with this nonsense. Trevor Evans will not put up with it. He has called them out. He has called them a lonely minority who are whistling Dixie on energy policy. This foray shows that the Queensland Nationals are a bunch of bumbling numpties when it comes to national energy policy.