



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 26 May 2021

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Electricity Network**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (9.45 am): Yesterday Queensland's electricity network experienced one of the most significant events in its history. Our greatest thanks is that there has been no injury to any of the employees or contractors at the Callide power station. The loss of supply from an entire 1.5 gigawatt power station in just 21 minutes is unprecedented—a word we have had cause to use so often since the start of 2020.

To protect the integrity of the network in Central Queensland, supply from Gladstone, Stanwell and Yarwun power stations was also taken offline, meaning a loss of 2,300 megawatts which affected 440,000 households across the state. After interruptions to supply across much of the system yesterday afternoon, there was no further loss of supply during last night's peak and our system is gradually recovering, as it is designed to.

Queensland's electricity network is designed to deal with interruptions. More than any other state our population is exposed to the risks of outages, particularly through natural disasters. The ability to be agile, to adapt and adjust is built into the design of our publically owned energy companies from generation to transmission and distribution. The resilience that is built into that system is not gold plating, as some would put it, but an investment in ensuring the reliability of our energy supply.

Yesterday's event caused disruption and inconvenience across the state, and I thank Queenslanders for their patience and understanding. A significant burden was placed on some of our large commercial and industrial customers, including the Boyne aluminium smelter. As Treasurer, I express my gratitude to all of those large employers for their cooperation during this unprecedented event.

Beyond those heavy industrial customers, preliminary advice suggests the economic impact is relatively contained, especially for an event of this magnitude. Energex and Ergon Energy have established processes for customers who experience damage as a result of an event like this which affects the electricity network. While assessments continue into the damage at Callide, Queenslanders can be assured that our publically owned energy system remains the strongest in the nation.