




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

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GAS SUPPLY AND OTHER LEGISLATION (HYDROGEN INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT) AMENDMENT BILL

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (5.21 pm): I rise in support of the Gas Supply and Other Legislation (Hydrogen Industry Development) Amendment Bill which recognises the importance of getting the policy settings right to support the development of the hydrogen industry in Queensland. In Queensland, along with the rest of the world, we recognise the importance of transitioning to net zero and the role that sustainable fuel sources such as hydrogen will play, which is now becoming increasingly evident. We have vast amounts of renewable resources, a skilled workforce and access to ports and the South-East Asian market, so Queensland is well placed to support the emerging hydrogen industry. This represents a significant opportunity for Queensland if the state can position itself as a global supplier of choice for renewable hydrogen, building on its long history as a major energy exporter.

EY modelling informed the Energy and Jobs Plan and it estimates that Queensland's green hydrogen industry could grow from \$2.8 billion in 2024 to \$33.4 billion in 2040. I am very pleased that there are currently over 50 projects progressing in the state which have been supported through the Queensland government's \$110 million investment as part of the Queensland Hydrogen Industry Strategy and I congratulate the minister and the Deputy Premier for the work that they have done to attract these projects and this investment right across the state, but in particular in my contribution I want to focus on the projects that are progressing in Central Queensland. This bill seeks to enable a clear regulatory pathway for the transportation and use of hydrogen and hydrogen carriers in pipelines. Pipelines will be an essential part of the hydrogen production and export industry as they are critical to the transportation of hydrogen to markets or large facilities. The bill will also provide consistency with changes occurring at the national level to bring hydrogen, hydrogen blends, biomethane and other renewable gases within the scope of the national gas law and national energy retail law.

The Gas Supply and Other Legislation (Hydrogen Industry Development) Amendment Bill 2023 is an important piece of legislation to support hydrogen developments in Queensland, particularly in regions like Central Queensland. What is good for Gladstone is good for Rockhampton and Yeppoon because we are geographically co-located in Central Queensland and we have seen the benefits through the production of LNG in our region. Whilst Rocky and Yeppoon have far superior beaches, shopping and members of parliament—just kidding—it is true that hydrogen will create a boom for our region.

Government members interjected.

Ms LAUGA: The member for Gladstone is not here to defend himself. It is true that hydrogen will create a boom for our region much the same as LNG production did but even more so with hydrogen, and the benefits will be realised in Rocky, Yeppoon and Gladstone as well. We have capability for solar. We have capability for wind to generate that renewable energy to create green hydrogen. We have the water supply, with the largest catchment in Queensland with the Fitzroy Basin. We have the renewable

energy zone. We have the deep water port that is Gladstone port. We are definitely well positioned to capitalise on the hydrogen boom and all of the indirect economic benefits of hydrogen production through transmission and through distribution. Central Queensland will continue to grow as an industrial and agricultural powerhouse supplied by renewable energy and building hydrogen electrolyzers for the world through the Energy and Jobs Plan. I am a power station kid. I was born in Kingaroy. My dad worked on the construction of the Tarong Power Station.

A government member: So did mine.

Ms LAUGA: There you go. We moved to Biloela where my dad worked on the construction of the Callide B Power Station and then on to Rockhampton where he was involved in the construction of Stanwell Power Station all those years ago. I congratulate Stanwell on its 30th birthday this year in 2023. I congratulate the board, the executive and all of the staff including CEO Michael O'Rourke, James Oliver and Angie Zahra for all of the work that they have done over the years to transform Stanwell into a powerhouse of the next generation. The first time I went to Stanwell Power Station just outside of Rockhampton I was only a small child and I remember seeing the cooling tower and thinking how huge it was. Some 30 years on, being a part of a government that is transforming our energy generation in Queensland, being part of a government that has a vision for the future and being part now of the next generation of power and energy generation in Queensland is something that I am incredibly proud of.

I am keen to see diversification of the Central Queensland economy as well. We are an agricultural powerhouse and an industrial powerhouse. We are also a manufacturing, education and health powerhouse. I am really keen to see Central Queensland grow and diversify as a renewable powerhouse and hydrogen powerhouse into the future. This bill sets out the clear regulatory pathway for the future of hydrogen production in Queensland. I very much look forward to the opportunities that this bill and everything that the hydrogen industry will bring to the Central Queensland region now and into the future. I commend the bill to the House.