



Speech By  
**Bryson Head**


**MEMBER FOR CALLIDE**

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Record of Proceedings, 24 August 2023

## **TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

### **Report, Motion to Take Note**

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (3.41 pm): It was great to be part of the committee process looking at Auditor-General's report No. 5 of 2021-22, *Managing Queensland's transition to renewable energy*. I do not know if I would say that we are 'managing Queensland's transition to renewable energy'. There is certainly a lot of talk about it, but the management has been poor at best, to say the least. This report was tabled in December last year and we are now near the end of August. Many months have passed since the tabling of the committee report and the Auditor-General's report was tabled in November 2021, so we are talking about a bit of history today. If the Premier had set more than 12 sitting weeks for the year, we could have gotten to this report a lot sooner and we would be talking about a lot more recent events.

The member for Kurwongbah mentioned the Callide Power Station explosion. That is further proof of the lack of management of Queensland's energy transition. If we had appropriately managed our electricity-generating assets across Queensland then we would not have seen the explosion at Callide Power Station and we would not have had Kogan Creek Power Station out for anywhere near as long. The result would have been cheaper electricity prices for Queenslanders.

This week we saw many farmers and concerned people from all across Queensland come to Brisbane to join a rally against reckless renewables. The key word there is 'reckless', because it is certainly not about opposing renewables; it is about opposing renewables that are destroying prime agricultural land and that are contributing to increased electricity costs here in Queensland.

A word that gets thrown around a bit when it comes to renewables is 'nimbies'. A nimby in the renewable space means 'not in my backyard'. We see many people pushing for renewable energy projects, but they do not want to have them in their own backyard. It is the primary producers of Callide, who put food and fibre on the table, who see these projects come through and who face compulsory acquisition to enable the powerlines that connect all of these renewables. That is not to say that we oppose compulsory acquisition, because it is an important power that we need in Queensland, but it needs to be used effectively. It should only be used for key projects; it should not be open slather. Unfortunately, this government is failing to manage the transition. They are failing to manage anything they touch. Everything they touch in Queensland is turning into a complete basket case.

The great 'hydro hoax' that was mentioned earlier is also part of their so-called Energy and Jobs Plan. We in the opposition will not believe the Pioneer dam until we see it, because at this stage they do not have a dollar on the table. They cannot even decide if they are going to give the environmental approvals for it. On the one hand the minister is saying, 'It is going to be going ahead lock, stock and barrel,' and on the other hand they are saying, 'It will only go ahead if the environmental approvals are

done.’ They are already assuming that the environmental approvals will sail through without any concerns. This is an example of a government that is in chaos and crisis and that cannot manage Queensland’s electricity market or the renewable energy transition. We have a checked-out Premier and as a result—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mrs Frecklington:** Do not take their interjections.

**Mr HEAD:** I thank the member for Nanango, who is a great member. The member for Nanango has seen firsthand some of the impacts of the reckless renewable push from the Labor government, who do not consider the prime agricultural land that is being impacted by their own policies.

The Audit Office recommended that the Department of Energy and Public Works publicly communicate its overall vision and objectives for the transition to renewable energy—the key word there is ‘objectives’—and that the government publish a detailed public statement on how Queensland’s renewable energy target is defined and measured.