




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

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

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (3.13 pm): The Gas Supply and Other Legislation (Hydrogen Industry Development) Amendment Bill 2023 aims to provide a clear regulatory assessment pathway to authorise the construction and operation of pipelines for hydrogen and hydrogen carriers in Queensland. Hydrogen carriers could include ammonia, methanol, methylcyclohexane, dimethyl-ether and toluene. I note that many members have not tried to pronounce them yet, but I tried to get through it.

We in the LNP support industry development in Queensland, whether it is the hydrogen industry or other industries across the board, because we back jobs and we back communities and rural communities in Queensland that underpin a lot of industry in Queensland. I thank all members of the Transport and Resources Committee, of which I am a member, for their efforts in reviewing this legislation. I also thank the committee secretariat for their efforts. We certainly have a few things going on at the moment.

There is a lot of talk about green hydrogen when it comes to the hydrogen industry in Queensland, but there is also blue hydrogen. Hydrogen is a resource that could potentially be extracted from mineral resources. I had a very interesting conversation with a gentleman from Geoscience Australia at the world mining expo in Brisbane recently about the potential for a mineral hydrogen industry in Australia and in Queensland. I am looking forward to the opportunities that may arise there across our state. I just hope that, when it comes to potential approvals for these hydrogen mines in the future, the Labor government does not stick with the status quo and kick these resource projects out into the future for too long.

I note the importance of compulsory acquisition powers when used fairly with due process for nation-building and strategic projects. The compulsory acquisition powers of the government are very important. They are powers that we support when applied correctly and when there is due process in that compulsory acquisition. I note that there is some need for a bit more leadership on projects that may be subject to compulsory acquisition. In my own community, there are a number of transmission lines that will be subject to compulsory acquisition should those projects go ahead. This causes a lot of angst. In the past we have seen a lot of angst caused to communities with gas and other pipeline projects. That angst is increased when those projects get delayed indefinitely or never go ahead, because it puts the community through a lot of stress and dramas without them ever seeing the economic benefits of the project. We have to be very measured in our approach to these projects. We would like to see as much coexistence of any projects on existing easements or along existing government owned land corridors, especially for projects that the state might be pushing. We support the concept of state owned projects being built and run through state owned land.

When it comes to easements under compulsory acquisition, there is also genuine concern with regard to biosecurity. Biosecurity is a huge concern in Queensland, especially thanks to the failures of the Palaszczuk Labor government when it comes to many biosecurity issues. Fire ants are running across all of South-East Queensland. Before long, pipeline projects that may come under this bill will need to have a fire ant management plan because of the failures of the government when it comes to biosecurity. That is just another thing that is going to be in the way of these projects when they are having to go through the process of compulsory acquisition. They are going to need a fire ant management plan in their biosecurity plan into the future. I am flagging that because this bill no doubt will see more pipelines in Queensland.

With regard to the notification process for compulsory acquisition, we asked the department some questions. When asked whether the notification process is acceptable, a representative from the department said—

That is the existing one that is in the act at the moment, so we have not changed that. Obviously with online circulation and those sorts of things, that is not acceptable, I understand.

That is because there is limited opportunity for a notification process and they are still relying on newspapers, and unfortunately across Queensland we do not have many newspapers left.

When it comes to hydrogen and green hydrogen, there is a lot of talk about the scope and scale across Queensland. I was at the Gladstone Engineering Alliance conference recently and there was a very interesting presentation from the Gladstone Ports Corporation CEO. I table a photo of that slide for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Photograph depicting a slide of a presentation relating to Gladstone Renewable Hub [1608](#).

That slide shows that 45 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity is required to decarbonise Queensland by 2040; however, to support a hydrogen industry around Gladstone and Central Queensland alone, on top of that and in addition to that, to provide four million tonnes per year of hydrogen will need 110 gigawatts of renewable energy, which will require 10,000 wind turbines and 2,500 square kilometres of solar farms. That is a lot of solar farms and wind turbines. I dare say that if the industry goes ahead on that scale—and that is a government owned corporation that is pushing that—there will not be a hilltop left in Central Queensland and there will not be a paddock left because 2,500 square kilometres is a lot of country.

We certainly need more transparency around these projects and what it might bring to Queensland because the government has been awfully quiet when it comes to hydrogen in Queensland recently. I wonder why that might be. Well, there was an assistant minister for hydrogen development in Queensland, but it was scratched from a title recently without much notification or without letting people know why. Maybe the government, in developing PowerPoint presentations like that, want to hide from Queensland what the impacts of the green hydrogen industry might be, and maybe they are trying to go a bit quiet on it.

I know they talk about a lot of jobs. How many jobs might be wiped when you cover 2,500 square kilometres of farmland with solar panels? I ask that as a genuine question into what the comparison in jobs are, because I dare say that there will be a lot of farming jobs lost with that.

How many trees will be cleared for 10,000 wind turbines and 2,500 square kilometres of solar farms? It certainly will be a lot, and the environmental impact of that will be huge, to the extent that, I dare say, it will be hard to call it a green industry. I note, following the shadow minister's comments, that this is the first bill around this topic by the Minister for Energy in his term, so it is good to finally see something here.

I ask: how much water will the green hydrogen industry need? The PowerPoint presentation I just tabled indicated 45 giga litres of water, which is a significant amount of water. If you want to use water, then you certainly need a lot of dams. I note that the Premier this morning was talking about desalination and I know that we all know how expensive desalination is. If they want to support a hydrogen industry in Queensland then they better get building a few dams, because it is the only way that it is going to stack up. I wonder if that announcement this morning was written on the back of an envelope, like nearly every other announcement from this government has been.

I certainly note that there have been many lessons learned in the past with the gas and resources industry, and I hope that we do not make the same mistakes again. Projects should stack up on a triple bottom line, and that is something that the LNP certainly agrees with. Perhaps agencies such as the GasFields Commission could partake in some of these conversations going forward with this industry. That said, we certainly look forward to hearing more from the government in relation to their broad review of Queensland's regulatory frameworks.