




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

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

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (12.50 pm): I rise to speak to the Gas Supply and Other Legislation (Hydrogen Industry Development) Amendment Bill 2023. This bill recognises the importance of getting the policy settings right to support the development of the hydrogen industry in Queensland. As Queensland, along with the world, recognises the importance of transitioning to net zero, the role that sustainable fuel sources, such as hydrogen, will play is increasingly evident. It is hard to imagine now that just last year Queensland was experiencing its second one-in-100-year flooding event in 10 years. With an increase in the severity and frequency of natural disasters driven by climate change, Queenslanders are far too familiar with the impacts that these events bring. These events have highlighted how important progressing solutions to mitigate the impacts of climate change are to our regions. Hydrogen cannot only help to limit emissions in hard-to-abate sectors such as heavy haulage and manufacturing but also will play an important role in ensuring Queensland prospers on the transition to net zero.

With vast amounts of renewable resources, a skilled workforce with access to ports and the South-East Asian market, Queensland is well placed to support the emerging hydrogen industry. The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan highlights the potential opportunity a renewable hydrogen industry could bring for Queensland. Independent modelling that informed the plan estimates that the industry could be worth more than \$33.4 billion by 2040 and could support more than 10,000 jobs. These are important green-collar jobs, ones that workers aspire to be part of, and part of decarbonisation.

I am also pleased to see the focus in the bill on ensuring this will all be done safely. As we know, hydrogen is being used safely in many industrial applications in Australia and internationally. Many countries around the world use hydrogen as fuel for transportation with an excellent safety record. To ensure appropriate safety measures are being adopted in Queensland, I am pleased to note that the bill will apply the existing safety framework for pipelines under the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act to hydrogen and other renewable gases. This tried and tested approach is supported by advances in standards and additional notification requirements to ensure the health and safety risks associated with hydrogen and other renewable gases are managed.

We know that hydrogen is seen as a game changer for cutting emissions in hard-to-abate sectors, and globally many countries are already setting ambitious targets for hydrogen use and production. This represents a huge opportunity to be leaders in the renewable hydrogen industry, and Queensland is set to be one of those. Queensland is competing at an international level for investment in the renewable hydrogen industry and the importance of strategic leadership at this early stage is fundamental. The amendments in the Gas Supply and Other Legislation (Hydrogen Industry Development) Amendment Bill do exactly that. They will provide clarity and certainty to industry and help to support the development of a hydrogen industry in Queensland by ensuring that settings are in place to transport hydrogen to markets.

As we know, the growing demand for renewable hydrogen provides, as we have talked about, significant opportunities, both in terms of international export and local decarbonisation. The amendments in this bill will allow for the transportation of hydrogen in pipelines that will be a critical part of the hydrogen production and export industry. Projects could deliver up to \$17.2 billion in hydrogen exports and \$12.4 billion to Queensland's gross state product over its 30-year life, positioning the state as a leader in the hydrogen industry. With the support of a \$15 million contribution from the Queensland government towards the \$117 million front-end engineering and design study, this project highlights how having the right policy settings can pave the way for world-leading projects within the state.

It is to be noted that CS Energy are also in the process of delivering the Kogan Renewable Hydrogen Demonstration Plant project, which is just one of the most advanced renewable hydrogen projects in Queensland. When in operation, the project will produce 75,000 kilograms of renewable hydrogen each year. The project is supported by \$28.9 million of funding.

Renewable hydrogen is the next big opportunity for Queensland and the industry could be comparable in size to the LNG industry. By building on our long and trusted history as a major energy exporter, Queensland can become a leading global producer and exporter of green hydrogen. Global demand for hydrogen is growing, as we know, with many of our major trading partners seeing the role it is playing in helping them to achieve their decarbonisation targets. Investors from Japan, Korea and Singapore are all looking to Queensland to meet their hydrogen needs. Queensland government owned corporations are among some of the significant projects under development across the state. I am pleased to hear the announcement regarding the development of the Stanwell-led consortium CQ-H2 hydrogen export project in Gladstone.

There is also a significant role that hydrogen can play in the transport sector as a diesel replacement in heavy vehicles. Articulated trucks have the highest rate of fuel consumption per vehicle. In Australia, if articulated trucks switched to hydrogen fuel, this would require about 130,000 tonnes per annum. In fact, the first hydrogen refuelling station was recently opened in my electorate of Lytton. It is a great location, close to the Port of Brisbane Motorway that leads onto the Gateway, north and south, and is therefore a great location for our heavy vehicles.

Many more domestic hydrogen cases are being developed and demonstrate the role that hydrogen can and possibly should play in Queensland's sustainable future. The role hydrogen could play to assist domestic decarbonisation for both Queensland and Australia is growing. Continued strategic leadership to support the industry's growth at this time is vital and one way is ensuring that there are viable offtake options for hydrogen production.

The Gas Supply and Other Legislation (Hydrogen Industry Development) Amendment Bill is an important first step in ensuring the regulatory settings are right to support the emerging hydrogen industry. By building on our long and trusted history as a major energy exporter, Queensland can become the leading global producer and exporter of green hydrogen.

We all know about the very successful Energy and Jobs Plan that we are delivering across Queensland which has seen the uptake of a huge amount of renewable resources and the cutting down of our emissions, leading into the upcoming Olympic Games in 2032. This will also create a number of green-collar jobs across Queensland. Yesterday I was at Visy's cardboard recycling facility where I met a number of employees who have chosen to move into the green industry, to have green-collar jobs, because they are well-paid jobs that create an opportunity for people who have a commitment to working in manufacturing and are also committed to working towards climate change to feel good about themselves by working in a green industry. I think there is great opportunity. This bill is a good first start in this area and that is why I commend the bill to the House.