




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

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

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (4.15 pm): I rise to support the Gas Supply and Other Legislation (Hydrogen Industry Development) Amendment Bill 2023. I remind the member for Maiwar that you could not find a government that is doing more to take on the Resources Council than the Palaszczuk government is at the moment. When it comes to publicly owned electricity retailers, I remind the member for Maiwar that Ergon is a publicly owned energy retailer here in Queensland.

I am proud to be a Queensland hydrogen champion. I have been in the role for the past five years, since 2017, so I am proud to speak on the bill as it continues to advance Queensland's position as a global renewable energy powerhouse. The 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 that just last year Queensland was experiencing its second one-in-100-year flooding event in just 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 of those events. Those events have highlighted how important progressing solutions to mitigate the impacts of climate change are to our regions.

Yesterday morning I arrived back from Ghana, West Africa, where I spoke at the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference. I had the opportunity to contribute to the debate on food security and sustainability and the impacts of climate change in that space. It is really important to appreciate that, as we reach a population of roughly 10 billion people across the planet by 2050, we will need to create 70 per cent more food. Climate change plays a very big part in how we are able to produce food for communities across the world.

Not only can hydrogen 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 and access to ports in the South-East Asian market, Queensland is well placed to support the emerging hydrogen industry. The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan highlights the potential opportunities a renewable hydrogen industry could bring for Queenslanders. The Energy and Jobs Plan is an incredible piece of work by our government that looks at the renewables future and the jobs and prosperity for all Queenslanders that will come from it.

In terms of hydro power, earlier this year, during the regional sittings in Cairns, I had the opportunity to visit the Barron Gorge Hydroelectric Power Station. While in Ghana I had the opportunity to visit the Volta River Authority's Akosombo Dam hydro project, which is the largest in Africa. It provides energy to all of Ghana, Togo and Nigeria. It was really incredible to see. I am super proud that, through

our Energy and Jobs Plan, our government is investing to deliver the world's largest pumped hydro project at Borumba, right here in Queensland. Independent modelling that informed the plan estimates that the hydrogen industry could be worth more than \$33.4 billion by 2040 and support more than 10,000 jobs. We know that this will deliver for Queenslanders. If we reflect back on what the LNG market did for our economy and for jobs, hydrogen will play exactly that role.

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, with many of Queensland's major trading partners seeing the role it will play in helping them to achieve their decarbonisation targets. Investors from Japan, Korea and Singapore are looking to Queensland to meet their hydrogen needs.

With the ongoing leadership and support of the Queensland government and more than \$110 million of investment, there are already over 50 projects progressing in the state which, as we heard from the member for Bundamba, is 40 per cent of the world's hydrogen projects. I think that is an incredible statistic. I am very proud that the Redlands has been at the forefront of hydrogen. Many members might not know, but we were the first region to export hydrogen to Japan.

Mr Stevens interjected.

Ms RICHARDS: It might have been in small quantities, member for Mermaid Beach, but we were the first. It was exciting to be part of that history. At the moment we also have underway, through the procurement process, new hydrogen buses being trialled in the Redlands. I am very excited about that.

Queensland government owned corporations are among some of the significant hydrogen projects under development across the state. I am pleased to hear about the announcements regarding developments in the Stanwell-led consortium CQ-H2 hydrogen export project in Gladstone. This project could deliver \$17.2 billion in hydrogen exports and \$12.4 billion to Queensland's gross state product over its 30-year life, positioning our state as the leader in the hydrogen industry. I have had the opportunity this year to speak at national hydrogen conferences in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne on how well Queensland is doing in this space. We are absolutely leading the way. When I have had the chance to listen to other speakers from different parts of Australia and different parts of the world, I can absolutely assure members that Queensland is well positioned to be the leader in the hydrogen space.

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 our state. There is also CS Energy which is in the process of delivering the Kogan Renewable Hydrogen Demonstration Plant, 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 our government with \$28.9 million of funding.

Renewable hydrogen is the next big opportunity. As I said, the industry could be comparable in size to that of the LNG energy. Again, I tell everybody to think back to what LNG did for Queensland and our economy. Hydrogen is positioned to do this. This represents a huge opportunity to be leaders in renewable hydrogen. Queensland is competing and, as I said, having spoken at those conferences, I have no doubt that we are competing both nationally and internationally. The US market is moving swiftly in terms of the levels of investment in the renewable hydrogen industry. The importance of strategic leadership at this early stage is fundamental. When I think about the strategy as it was developed for 2019 to 2024, we have been at the forefront of positioning Queensland to take that lead.

The amendments in the Gas Supply and Other Legislation (Hydrogen Industry Development) Amendment Bill will do exactly that—that is, continue to position Queensland. They will provide the clarity and certainty to industry and help to support the continued development of the hydrogen industry in Queensland by ensuring settings are in place to transport hydrogen to those markets that will so deeply love green hydrogen from our state. I commend this bill to the House and I commend the work of the minister.