




Speech By
Lance McCallum

MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA

Record of Proceedings, 24 August 2023

TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (3.47 pm): What a pleasure it is to follow the member for Callide from the LNP—the party that wanted to privatise and sell the Callide Power Station. I wonder if the member for Callide was there protesting against the LNP government’s policy to sell off all of our transmission assets, all of our distribution assets and all of our state owned generators. I do not think so. The transcript of the committee briefings on this report made for interesting reading. The member for Callide asked a question about the jobs guarantee that is a part of our groundbreaking Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan—like he cares about the workers in Callide when he is part of a party that is—

Mr HEAD: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and ask the member to withdraw.

Mr McCALLUM: I withdraw. He asked a question about the jobs guarantee that is provided by the Palaszczuk Labor government as part of a world-leading energy and jobs plan that is going to provide a legislated jobs guarantee. The last time the Liberal National Party were in government they wanted to sell off the Callide Power Station. It is clear that the LNP has a pathological opposition to renewables.

This is the party whose Queensland federal shadow ministers want to take us to nuclear energy. They want to introduce nuclear energy in Queensland and right across Australia. They want to plonk small-scale nuclear reactors up and down the coast. Who knows whose electorate it is going to be? Probably on the Sunshine Coast. Maybe down the Gold Coast.

Mr HART: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I just wonder if the member can point to where in the report it says anything about nuclear energy.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): I will get some advice. Member for Bundamba, can I ask you to explain the relevance to the report please?

Mr McCALLUM: Absolutely. We are talking about a transition of the energy system in Queensland. On one hand we have the Palaszczuk Labor government that has a very comprehensive, evidence-based plan to transition to over \$62 billion worth of investment in Queensland’s energy system that is going to create over 100,000 jobs. When it comes to both of those figures, the majority of it is going to be in renewable energy. The alternative plan from the opposition here in Queensland is to champion nuclear energy. The contrast is that the LNP has a transition to nuclear which is a transition to higher prices. It has a transition to asset sales. It has a transition to sacking our energy workers. That is how it is relevant to the report that is currently being debated.

I note that the committee’s report found that all five recommendations in the Auditor-General’s report have been implemented. The important thing is that after the Auditor-General report was concluded we released our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan which includes the Queensland SuperGrid which is going to pump that 22 gigawatts of extra renewables right around Queensland into

our homes and businesses, putting lower pressure on our energy prices. We also have the pumped hydro projects as well as network batteries and neighbourhood batteries. Some of the speakers from the LNP have mentioned these pumped hydro projects. It was interesting to note that in the hearing transcript the member for Toowoomba North was quoted as saying, 'I'm all for pumped storage,' yet there are public comments from LNP members who are opposing the powerlines to the pumped storage.

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr McCALLUM: With the mob on the other side, I think we are going to get energy generation without any powerlines to connect it to the grid. I will finish with a final point that was raised by some of the speakers from the LNP about making sure that we share the benefits with regional communities and some of the impacts on prime agricultural land. I would refer those members to the Queensland Farmers' Federation's Queensland Renewable Energy Landholders Toolkit that was proudly developed in partnership with the Palaszczuk Labor government.

(Time expired)