




Speech By  
**Lance McCallum**

**MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA**

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Record of Proceedings, 10 October 2023

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

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (3.36 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Gas Supply and Other Legislation (Hydrogen Industry Development) Amendment Bill 2023. Queensland is well on its way to becoming a renewable hydrogen global superpower and this bill is an important next step in that journey. Australia's hydrogen investment pipeline, which is almost \$300 billion, is about double what it was only two years ago. That is incredible geometric growth in the economic potential that renewable hydrogen has to deliver to our nation. In fact, it represents around 40 per cent of all global renewable hydrogen projects to date. Much of that work, much of that innovation, much of that expertise and much of that benefit is happening in our great state right now.

We have over 50 green hydrogen and ammonia products that are being developed right here in Queensland. It is actually really incredible to consider the progress from when the Queensland hydrogen strategy was launched in late 2019 with the incredible foresight of the Premier. Fast-forward to now and we have over 50 projects in Queensland. That is an enormous amount of progress in such a short amount of time, particularly when we consider that we had the global COVID-19 pandemic right in the middle. As has been indicated by previous speakers, under our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan—hydrogen is an absolutely core component of this plan—independent modelling has estimated that hydrogen will be worth \$33.4 billion by 2040, contributing 10,000 jobs to Queensland.

To make sure that we realise these benefits in the best way possible, we have adopted a multifaceted approach to accelerating our hydrogen industry and our Queensland hydrogen supply chain through policy, strategy, engagement, investment and legislation. That is what we are dealing with and working towards with this bill. It is becoming reality under our landmark Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. It is a plan that will deliver over \$62 billion worth of investment to Queensland. It is a plan which reflects the fact that we are transitioning to a clean energy economy. The fact is: it is our biggest economic opportunity since the industrial revolution. Already, we have global trade giants turning to Queensland to help them meet their decarbonisation targets. Our plan is to power new jobs in new industries with new export opportunities like renewable hydrogen, with more affordable, more reliable and cleaner energy. Green hydrogen is absolutely essential to that plan. It is a plan that includes what will be Queensland's very first 100 per cent hydrogen-capable gas peaker to be delivered at Kogan Creek.

The bill before the House deals with a number of amendments to other acts that will help enable this hydrogen industry in Queensland. The Gas Supply Act amendments expand the scope of the Gas Supply Act to include hydrogen, hydrogen blends, biomethane and other types of renewable gases, whilst the amendments to the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act help to provide a pathway for hydrogen proponents to apply for and obtain a pipeline licence that is specifically for the transportation of hydrogen and hydrogen carriers. This will be achieved through inserting the new term of 'regulated hydrogen' into the petroleum and gas act which again includes hydrogen, hydrogen gas blends and other types of substances that will be prescribed by regulation.

It is also achieved through the extension of the current licensing and safety provisions for pipelines to include hydrogen and other hydrogen carriers to ensure appropriate safety considerations whilst these pipeline licensing processes are underway. I note that this legislation has been very well consulted on. Over 125 stakeholders were approached and provided feedback, as well as those who took the time to make a submission to the committee inquiry into this bill.

We are getting on with the job of standing up a strong and sustainable hydrogen industry here in Queensland. We have already delivered a landmark report, the *Enabling Queensland's hydrogen production and export opportunities* report, and I acknowledge and commend the work of our hydrogen advisory council. That report is a key tool that can be used by industry when it comes to investing in renewable hydrogen in Queensland. It has been very well received and now it is being backed up by the legislative changes in this bill.

Queensland was the first state to have a bespoke Hydrogen Safety Code of Practice. I acknowledge the contribution of the member for Townsville and Minister for Resources who went through and made the amendments and changes that are in this law to help modernise our safety regulation around hydrogen. The Queensland Hydrogen Centre of Excellence is skilling and training workers for jobs in this industry. We will have 10,000 new jobs by 2040. In my local area at Swanbank, we are taking steps to turn Swanbank into South-East Queensland's first clean energy hub, and that includes the use of hydrogen. In fact, there are EOIs and a market sounding practice underway. At this very moment, the proudly publicly owned CleanCo is tendering for clean energy opportunities which include hydrogen. There is plenty happening when it comes to realising the enormous opportunities that green hydrogen has for Queensland.

I was pleased to see that the LNP is supporting this bill. I acknowledge that their statement of reservation provides broad support, so I thank them for backing our hydrogen agenda. I would also like to thank them for backing the Palaszczuk Labor government when it comes to our use of common user infrastructure. It does put them a little at odds with the former member for Callide and the current member for Flynn, who used his maiden speech in federal parliament to label hydrogen as 'dangerous'. The member for Condamine and opposition spokesman for energy remarked that this is the minister's first piece of legislation. I implore the LNP to take a moment, take a breath and do their research. You would think that before they would level that kind of criticism, they would maybe take a moment to consider whether they had brought forward one private member's bill or an energy policy, which they have not. I commend this bill to the House.