




Speech By
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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Nuclear Energy

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (2.42 pm): Nuclear energy is a subject under discussion in the media and in many communities across our nation right now. Many Queenslanders would want and perhaps expect to know the views of their elected representatives and, in the case of the state LNP, the alternative government on this matter. We know that federal members of the Queensland LNP are on the public record supporting nuclear energy. These include LNP leader Peter Dutton, Senator Matthew Canavan, shadow energy minister Ted O'Brien, Nationals leader David Littleproud and former senator Amanda Stoker, the newly minted LNP candidate for Oodgeroo.

However, where exactly does the Queensland LNP state opposition stand? There is a relatively recent media article in the *Australian Financial Review* that, at a glance, gives the impression that the state LNP policy position is that they might be opposed to nuclear energy. The headline reads, 'No nukes in Qld: Crisafulli rejects Dutton's plan'. I table the article.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Australian Financial Review*, dated 10 July 2023, titled 'No nukes in Qld: Crisafulli rejects Dutton's plan' [1606](#).

When you look at it, there is a bit of devil in the detail. The report states that the Leader of the Opposition said that there was no point discussing nuclear power until it was endorsed by both major parties. The article quotes him as saying

'Until both sides of federal parliament agree that is the course of action, it is not going to happen.'

The article continues—

'I'm not spending any energy on it—pardon the pun—because no-one will invest in it unless both sides agree to it.'

The article then states—

When asked what he would do if he and Mr Dutton won their respective elections and it became federal government policy, Mr Crisafulli said investors would still steer clear of nuclear power until Labor was behind it.

That is hardly a clear rejection. Given the chance, he could have said, 'No, we don't support nuclear energy,' but he did not. Instead, there were very carefully worded and evasive responses that leave the doors wide open for a secret plan for nuclear.

That is more than plausible when one considers what a current opposition frontbencher, the honourable member for Clayfield, said about nuclear energy in 2007 in this place. In the middle of the millennium drought, during a motion about water, he said—

Where does the government stand—

meaning the Labor government of the time—

on those three issues when it comes to the nuclear debate? Does it recognise the scientific research that finds that nuclear energy is a safe source of energy ... Does it note the safe use of nuclear almost everywhere in the world?

I table that extract from *Hansard*.

Tabled paper: Extract, dated 22 February 2007, from the *Record of Proceedings*, Queensland parliament [1607](#).

According to media reports in today's *Australian*, the LNP's new candidate for Oodgeroo will go straight into cabinet under a future LNP government and she backs nuclear. We only have to look at her work as a Sky News host to see that. Nuclear energy is expensive, it will drive up energy prices and it is much more dangerous than other forms of energy.

Queenslanders can count on the Palaszczuk Labor government to create jobs through more cheap, clean and reliable energy through our very public, evidence-based, unambiguous energy policy plan, the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. The state opposition needs to tell Queenslanders, clearly and unambiguously, exactly where they stand and stop hiding their true agenda.