




Speech By
Melissa McMahon

MEMBER FOR MACALISTER

Record of Proceedings, 10 October 2023

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

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (4.33 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Gas Supply and Other Legislation (Hydrogen Industry Development) Amendment Bill 2023. I support the Palaszczuk Labor government's vision for Queensland—positioning it as a world leader in the renewable hydrogen industry. Major trading partners on our doorstep such as Japan, South Korea and Singapore are committed to net zero emissions, and the future global hydrogen industry will play a major role in achieving these commitments.

Independent modelling has estimated that investment in the renewable hydrogen industry in Queensland could be worth over \$33 billion by 2040. To ensure Queensland—a state that shares the vision to transition to renewable energy—is ready for this industry investment and potential, we need to ready ourselves now. An efficient and effective regulatory framework is needed to ensure infrastructure and associated industry is ready to capitalise on this massive investment. As much as no-one likes excessive regulation, I think we can all understand that, when dealing with petroleum and gas, safety through licensing and regulation is absolutely necessary. I have lived and worked in countries where regulations either do not exist or are not properly enforced, and it is a real concern. It is dangerous for workers and it is dangerous for the industry and the population more broadly. It also presents a risk to investment potential in the industry and our global standing as a world leader in this space if we are not careful with our regulatory framework.

Currently, Queensland's regulation framework does not incorporate Queensland's prospective hydrogen industry. The bill seeks to remedy this to futureproof the process for applications and licensing. The hydrogen industry will require new pipelines to transport hydrogen and other gases from production facilities to export terminals. Current pipeline licences do not cover hydrogen blends, biomethane and other covered gases. This bill will address this gap not only in the pipeline but also for hydrogen carriers and transporters.

The Macalister electorate will play a vital role in this renewable hydrogen industry. The Plumbing Industry Climate Action Centre in Beenleigh hosts the Hydrogen Centre of Excellence, a key 2020 election commitment of this government. It is a clear and solid demonstration of how important this government sees this industry is to the future of Queensland's economy, not only as an export industry but also for the thousands of skilled jobs this industry will accommodate. At PICAC, workers of the future will be trained and skilled in hydrogen-specific trades to meet the jobs and needs of industry here as well as abroad. With the Hydrogen Centre of Excellence officially opened almost a year ago, I have seen the connections our local schools are making with PICAC as the school students of today prepare for the hydrogen jobs of tomorrow. PICAC recently hosted the hydrogen subcommittee of the Ministerial Energy Council where the need for the amendments the subject of this bill were widely discussed. This bill will deliver the necessary action for stakeholders to continue to work towards our green hydrogen future.

I did note in the statement of reservation, as has been mentioned by a number of speakers today, that there were concerns about the role this future industry might play in terms of compulsory acquisitions. I note that this bill does not actually contain or extend to the process of compulsory acquisition; however, that is subject to the current extent provisions under the legislation. I do note the shadow minister's concern about the impost for industry if there is additional work that needs to be done in creating and making new agreements.

As I understand it, current agreements with landowners do not cover the transportation of hydrogen across their land, so new agreements will need to be entered into by industry, even if it is for the same land. I also note the member for Lockyer's comments that landholders themselves need to be protected in this process. I am sure that the process by which consultation happens between the pipeline owner or licensee and the landowner is a process that has been developed and refined by industry and landowners over many years. The industry or pipeline proponent needs to ensure they have the agreement of landowners before applying for these licences. I do hope that the process in effect between pipeline proponents and landowners is one that is met with equal agreement on both sides before it comes to the government to receive its regulation and authority to proceed.

We understand this is a major, key piece of the infrastructure that is needed for this industry. As much as landowners are seeing pipelines and all other sorts of easements going through their properties, with the appropriate financial compensation and the amount of money in this industry those proponents will again be sitting down with landowners to make sure they have the pipeline, they have the agreements and, from the point of extraction of renewable hydrogen to the point of departure in our ports, we have a secure pipeline all the way through that takes into account the concerns raised by the member for Lockyer. I commend the bill to the House.