




Speech By
Michael Hart

MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH

Record of Proceedings, 14 September 2023

TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (3.12 pm): I rise to speak on the *Examination of Auditor-General Report 5: 2021-22—Managing Queensland’s transition to renewable energy*. What a hoax we have heard from the Minister for Transport! This is the guy who tells us that we are going to have zero-emission buses by 2025 and then he goes and orders a whole lot of diesel buses. He spruiked straightaway about others buying electric buses.

Mr BAILEY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This is the guy who said transport would be obsolete in five to 10 years! What credibility has he got?

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Members, order! I will get some advice. That is not a point of order.

Mr HART: Thank you for your protection, Madam Deputy Speaker—like I need protection from the minister! The minister spruiks about the Gold Coast having electric buses and Brisbane having electric buses. Everybody else except this government is making electric buses. Electric buses are being made on the Gold Coast. Does this government want to order electric buses? No. Who led the way on electric vehicles in this place? The member for Logan and I were the first two members to have electric vehicles here.

Mr Power: I don’t want to be associated with you!

Mr HART: Okay. We will leave that one alone. The whole transition to renewable energy is a hoax. The government keeps telling us that the more renewable energy we put into the system the cheaper electricity prices will become. What has been happening? The exact reverse—the more renewable energy that has been put into the system, forced into the system by the ideological position of this government, the higher electricity prices have gone. This year alone we have had a 56 per cent increase in electricity prices in Queensland. The government can come in here and say that we have the lowest electricity prices in Queensland because they are subsidising it. That is not forcing down the price of electricity; that is only fixing the problem for a minute and a half. What happens next year after the sugar hit that has been provided this year disappears? Who is going to pay the subsidy next year?

Mr Head: Queensland taxpayers.

Mr HART: I take that interjection. It will be consumers who are faced with higher electricity bills. What we have seen in this transition is privatisation by stealth. The government does not own any renewable energy. It does not own any wind farms. It does not own any solar panels. It does not own anything. It has a power uptake agreement from a whole lot of privately owned companies. Members

opposite need to understand that all of this renewable energy costs money. These are private companies that are building renewable energy and then selling it to the government at an inflated price, which of course pushes up the price of electricity.

Then we have their great plan to firm this up. Without firming, renewable energy does not work. Unfortunately, if this government had transitioned in a proper way, thought it through and did it slowly, then we may have had a good outcome. Instead, they rushed it. They rushed in the amount of renewable energy, so much so that our electricity grid is completely unstable. It is unstable. We are going to see brownouts. We are going to see blackouts. We are going to see all sorts of problems. Mark my words!

To fix this, the government say they are going to provide hydro power. They are going to build dams. When was the last time this government ever built a dam? At estimates we heard about these grand plans for dams in the Pioneer-Burdekin area. SunWater have not even looked at these dams. SunWater is responsible for putting together business cases for dams in Queensland. They have been doing this for 30 years. They have dams planned all over Queensland. They are ready to go. All they need is funding. They have not even looked at this! We know from people on the ground there that these dams cannot and will not be built. This is a farce.

How is this government ever going to transition to the renewable energy targets that they expect to without that firming? I can tell you right now that they cannot rely on batteries. They will be way too expensive. All of this ideological stupidity that is going on inside the Labor Party is just leading to higher electricity prices.