



Speech By  
**Patrick Weir**


**MEMBER FOR CONDAMINE**

---

Record of Proceedings, 12 October 2023

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Electricity Supply**

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (2.31 pm): The reliability and affordability of Queensland's electricity supply is a major issue affecting Queenslanders. It is something even the Labor aligned Mining and Energy Union has expressed concern about. The Premier and this government continue to be consumed by chaos and crisis and media spin rather than addressing the issues at hand. I have spoken at length about the issues at the Callide Power Station and the effect generators being offline is having on rising electricity prices for Queensland families. The situation at Callide is one that could have been avoided with proper maintenance and that is something that whistleblowers continue to tell me. It is becoming commonplace to see government owned generators offline due to unplanned outages, including key generators offline at Kogan Creek and Millmerran recently. The unreliability of these power plants is causing a serious issue and it is gambling with the security of our supply over the summer peaks. This unreliability is squarely at the feet of the Premier and her energy minister. Given this government has failed to adequately maintain these government owned power plants, there is less supply into the electricity market. The longer the government avoids the issue, the higher prices Queenslanders will pay through their electricity bills.

We have heard about the El Nino predictions and we know meteorologists are warning of a very hot summer. The stress on Queensland's electricity network over the coming months will be significant. Many energy experts have raised their concerns with me that blackouts are a very real possibility over summer if our electricity network becomes overloaded. It is a serious issue and one that deserves attention rather than the dismissive and evasive answers the Premier and the energy minister continue to offer up.

I read with interest an article in this week's *Financial Review* where former Snowy Hydro CEO Paul Broad warned 'The lights are going to go out in a return to normal conditions after three mild summers.' Mr Broad went on to say that politicians were not listening to the warnings about the risks around supply and the slow rollout of alternatives to baseload power. The Palaszczuk government has made many announcements and set time frames for the delivery of these announcements that they simply cannot achieve.

Over two years later we are still waiting for the Premier to release the Brady report commissioned to investigate the explosion that occurred at the Callide Power Station. I again call on the Premier to be open and transparent with Queensland. This report should be released in full. The minister this morning alleged that I did not support workers and were blaming them. I can assure members that I support the workers. There is one person I blame for this and that is this energy minister.