




Speech By
Patrick Weir

MEMBER FOR CONDAMINE

Record of Proceedings, 20 April 2023

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Hydrogen Industry; Training Facilities

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (2.18 pm): The hallmark of this government is chaos and confusion, and we see examples of that almost daily. A prime example of this lack of clarity surrounds the hydrogen training facilities. For months via questions on notice I have been trying to seek clarity around this government's commitment to fund four renewable and hydrogen training centres. The Premier and minister after minister are happy to claim credit for these facilities, but no-one seems to take responsibility for any scrutiny, as my questions on notice to Labor ministers reveal.

The skills minister, whom I initially asked, referred me to the Treasurer who is now trying to refer me back to the skills minister. Labor's minister for employment and training said the 'administration and responsibility of the fund is led by Queensland Treasury'. Yet the Treasurer has disputed that by responding to another question on notice, 'Funding for renewable energy and hydrogen training centres is not provided.' Who is right and who is responsible? This is yet another example of Labor's chaos and confusion.

Talking of chaos and confusion, it is high time Minister de Brenni explained the ongoing failures at Callide Power Station. On 24 March this year, news broke that Genuity, Callide C's co-owner, went into voluntary administration. Since then we have not heard one word from the Premier, her energy minister or the Treasurer about the future of those generators. Given the energy minister and the Treasurer are the shareholding ministers, the onus should be on them to ensure the public and, importantly, the Callide staff know what is the future of these generators. Given both of these generators are still out of commission and the fact that their end of life is approaching, I suspect the prospect of finding a new private equity partner will be exceedingly slim.

The minister must answer: will the Queensland government be buying Genuity's shares in Callide using some of their coal royalty revenue or will this be used as an excuse by Minister de Brenni and the left to close these generators down early? Will Genuity's collapse have an impact on these generators coming back online? Will it cause further delays? How will it affect Queensland's electricity supply?

Given comments by the Queensland Competition Authority and the Auditor-General that prices have been impacted by these outages, how much longer do Queenslanders need to pay extra on their power bills? When can Queenslanders expect to have these generators operating again?

We now know there is no time line for the release of Dr Brady's independent investigation and review into the explosion at C4. Callide employees and the public deserve answers to these questions and as to when they will see the review. It is time the Premier and her minister cut the chaos and confusion and provided some answers.