




Speech By  
**Shane King**

**MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH**

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Record of Proceedings, 10 October 2023

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

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (12.36 pm): I rise to contribute to this debate on the Gas Supply and Other Legislation (Hydrogen Industry Development) Amendment Bill 2023. The Transport and Resources Committee inquired into this bill and recommended that it be passed. I would like to thank the committee members from both sides, secretariat staff, officers from the Department of Energy and Public Works and the over 125 stakeholders from across industry, local government, the agriculture and resource sectors, First Nations, environmental groups, GOCs and distribution authority holders who helped inform our inquiry.

It is always a pleasure to stand up in this place to talk about what the government is doing in the energy space. I come from the energy supply industry, although not many may know that. Not only am I very proud of our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan; I know that my old workmates at Powerlink and my union, the mighty Electrical Trades Union, and so many more tradies and businesses across Queensland are excited about the opportunities this and our future energy road map are generating. They are excited about the \$4.5 billion Queensland Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund guaranteeing jobs in our industry and making sure publicly owned energy businesses can invest in renewable energy, storage and hydrogen projects in dedicated renewable energy zone regions—bringing more work like Powerlink is doing now on windfarm projects in Far North Queensland and the Western and Southern Downs under our National Electricity Rules. Consultation is currently open on the draft 2023 Queensland Renewable Energy Zone Roadmap, which identifies 12 potential future zones and a Queensland-specific framework to help connect 22 gigawatts of new renewable energy development to our network.

As part of the overall Energy and Jobs Plan, which this hydrogen is part of, I want to mention that pumped hydro is an important part of our energy plan. I recently had the opportunity to visit Tasmania's hydro site at Lake Cethana, south-west of Devonport, and hear about their plans for a large pumped hydro station there. I am more excited than ever that we are building a huge pumped hydro project right here in Queensland. To see the sheer scale and engineering of these projects close up is phenomenal. I know that members will be interested in this. Another one in Tasmania has been in existence since 1938. The pipelines are made of timber pipes that run for kilometres, keeping another trade in work—coopers or barrel makers. It is incredible to see. I will say the one thing they do not have down there that we have is the stability that pumped hydro would bring. That is why they need pumped hydro. We have it here. I have said it before and I will say it again: when the Callide Power Station sadly failed in 2021 due to a generator fault, it was our Wivenhoe pumped hydro that saved the day.

In Queensland, we have committed to a target of zero emissions by 2050. We know that hydrogen will play a significant role in getting there. That is because, unlike burning fuel to generate energy, burning hydrogen does not release carbon dioxide. For those who do not know, hydrogen is an energy carrier and it can be used to deliver, transport and store energy produced from other sources. The local skills, industry and infrastructure we have invested in over the years in Queensland have

perfectly placed us to be a world leader in the development of hydrogen, particularly green hydrogen which leaves only water as a by-product. That is why we have a Queensland Hydrogen Industry Strategy and why we are investing millions of dollars in hydrogen projects and in training facilities that teach people how to work with hydrogen through the \$4½ billion Queensland Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund that I have already mentioned.

In order to produce, transport and export our hydrogen, we need pipelines. Currently, the Gas Supply Act 2003 covers processed natural gas, and this bill will expand its coverage to hydrogen, hydrogen blends, biomethane and other covered gases, defined as a primary gas or gas blend. The bill sets out some other definitions and distributor requirements and, importantly, provides consistency with federal government changes to the National Gas Law and the National Energy Retail Law.

The bill also amends the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 to enable the licensing and operation of transmission pipelines for the transportation of hydrogen and hydrogen carriers. The Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 regulates the petroleum and gas industry in Queensland, including the licencing system for the construction and operation of pipelines, and covers safety and technical issues related to production, transport and use of petrol, natural gas and fuel gas. While hydrogen is prescribed as a fuel gas, it is currently not listed in the act as a substance that can be transported under current pipeline licences. This bill changes that, recognising the growing prevalence of hydrogen production and use and its importance to our state as an economic and jobs generator and a means to achieve a cleaner environmental footprint now and for future generations.

Modelling suggests hydrogen could be worth about \$33 billion to our economy within 20 years. Effective regulation of hydrogen development and use is essential to the healthy growth of the industry and is an action item of our Energy and Jobs Plan. This bill brings us an important step closer to those goals. I will conclude today by mentioning the commitment to our parliamentary committee by the Department of Energy and Public Works that issues around H2 water and land access that were raised during our inquiry will be considered as part of a broader review. We do appreciate that. That is the next step for us in supporting and regulating the huge potential of Queensland's hydrogen industry. I commend the bill to the House.