




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR HILL

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

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (4.39 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the debate of the Gas Supply and Other Legislation (Hydrogen Industry Development) Amendment Bill 2023. The explanatory notes state that the bill is designed to capitalise on the renewable hydrogen industry, which could be worth over \$33 billion in Queensland by 2040. The bill aims to provide a clear regulatory assessment pathway to authorise the construction and operation of the pipelines for hydrogen and hydrogen carriers in Queensland.

I acknowledge the Minister for Hydrogen for his passionate and sometimes fanatical views towards hydrogen and the pursuance of that. I do not have an issue with hydrogen and believe it should be pursued as part of our energy mix; however, if we are going to embrace hydrogen we should do the same for nuclear energy as a clean, green, plentiful and limitless energy source. In fact, according to a study in 2020 from the Energy Options Network, nuclear energy may be the best way to make green hydrogen without carbon emissions. According to the study, nuclear can also serve as the cheapest carbon-free source for hydrogen fuel and be economically competitive with natural gas. The study said—

An inherent advantage over technologies that only produce electricity (like wind and PV) is nuclear's capacity to produce both electricity and heat, affording it the ability to take advantage of all hydrogen production technology options.

It was the LNP which got the ball rolling against nuclear by horsetrading with the Greens back in 1998 to originally ban nuclear power in Australia. The LNP have had plenty of time in government since then to repeal section 140 of the EPBC Act to enable debate about nuclear energy but have failed to do so. Now all of a sudden, as the opposition, they have found their voice to support nuclear energy.

The ALP are no better, with the federal and Queensland state governments completely dismissing nuclear energy. We are instead being driven into a multitrillion dollar black hole to meet the fantasy of renewable energy targets. The campaign against nuclear has reached the ridiculous stage, with federal energy minister Chris Bowen's crazy declaration that it would cost \$387 billion to replace coal with nuclear energy in Australia. In fact, according to the technical director of SMR Nuclear Technology, Tony Irwin, this figure is vastly overestimated.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Pause the clock. Member for Hill, you have drifted a little bit away from the bill. I have given you some latitude. You did mention hydrogen a couple of times. I draw you back to the bill.

Mr KNUTH: This is because solar's capacity factor is only around 20 per cent, while nuclear is 95 per cent.

I acknowledge the Minister for Hydrogen and the desire to expand the hydrogen industry. A concern was raised by the opposition with regard to the effect it could have in advancing over primary production land. At the same time, I support this bill and commend it to the House.