




Speech By
Brittany Lauga

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

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**ENERGY (RENEWABLE TRANSFORMATION AND JOBS) BILL; CLEAN
ECONOMY JOBS BILL**

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (9.06 pm): I rise in support of the Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2024, a bill that will set up Queensland's economy for the next 100 years and beyond. It will secure jobs in our regions, including the region that I represent in this place, in both existing industries and new ones. It is a bill to protect our spectacular and wondrous Great Barrier Reef. I am the daughter of an energy worker. I often joke about being a power station kid. Born in Kingaroy while my dad was working on the construction of Tarong Power Station, our family moved to Biloela a few years later during the construction of Callide B and finally to Rocky during the construction of Stanwell. I am the child of the coal-fired energy generation. At the time Queensland's population was growing so we needed the energy network to expand. It was the Queensland energy revolution of the eighties and nineties.

I remember as a small child the first time I visited Stanwell Power Station where my dad worked and I saw those massive water coolers and that amazing place that was responsible ultimately for keeping our lights on. It was a very memorable experience. It is a real honour and a privilege to be in this place tonight, working as part of the Miles Labor government team to deliver the next energy revolution for Queensland—the next generation of jobs, the next generation of electricity supply and the future of our regions.

This bill is important. It is important to the energy workers of Central Queensland. It guarantees security for their future. It is important to the economic growth of Central Queensland. I make no apologies for standing up for workers. I will absolutely always stand up for Central Queensland workers. I stood up for the mine workers at Oaky North coal mine after international mining corporation Glencore locked 190 workers out of their workplace for over 200 days in what was the longest lockout in Australia's history. I stood up to Aurizon against job cuts. I stood up for better 'buy local' policies that support local workers and I have fought hard against the casualisation of the workforce.

I was at Stanwell Power Station last year with the Premier and minister meeting with coal-fired energy workers and unions when we released the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. Until that day there had been so much worry and anxiety amongst energy workers about their futures. We have seen coal-fired power stations close down in other states. Privately owned energy companies are closing because they are not profitable, but here in Queensland, because our electricity assets are in state hands, we can make the commitment to convert all of Queensland's publicly owned coal-fired power stations into clean energy hubs by 2035, backed by a Job Security Guarantee for workers.

This is a \$62 billion plan with 95 per cent of clean energy infrastructure investment to be in regional Queensland. This is not just a Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan; this is a Central Queensland energy and jobs explosion. When we talked that day with the workers and the unions about this plan, there was relief. There was a united sigh of relief in the room. There were smiles, optimism and hope for the future. I will always stand up and fight for the future of energy workers in Queensland, and that is exactly what this bill will achieve. This bill will provide the framework to investment certainty to make

this happen—to provide high-paying, generational, clean energy jobs across the state. It will provide the opportunity for more young people to stay living in the regions where they grew up, to have exciting careers in energy, creating a better future for not only Queensland but also the world. It is only Labor that is committed to delivering cheaper and cleaner energy and secure jobs for the future with this bill. Only Labor will keep energy assets in public hands.

The LNP is voting against keeping energy assets in public hands. That means that under the LNP thousands of Queenslanders will lose their jobs. Billions of dollars of investment in renewable energy will be cut and Queenslanders will pay hundreds of dollars more on their power bills. Those opposite will sell off our assets, cut jobs and invest billions of Queenslanders' taxpayer dollars into expensive and unreliable nuclear power. In contrast, the Miles Labor government is delivering investment in cheap, reliable, publicly owned renewables. The Miles Labor government plan will create 100,000 good, secure jobs. By keeping electricity assets in public hands, we can deliver the electricity rebate that provides vital cost-of-living relief to all Queensland households.

All of that is at risk under the LNP. They will cut investment in renewables, slash jobs and increase power prices. I challenge the Leader of the Opposition to come up to Central Queensland and hold an energy forum. Come and talk to the people, the workers, the unions and come clean about exactly what the plan would be. When he was a Newman government minister, the member for Broadwater, David Crisafulli, was one of the biggest cheerleaders for privatising our energy assets. By voting against this bill he is telling Queenslanders that he will try to sell them again.

The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan will deliver more reliable, affordable power and a pipeline of well-paid secure jobs for Queenslanders now and for generations to come. The LNP will cut our Energy and Jobs Plan, making electricity more expensive and leading to thousands of job losses. I commend the bill to the House.

