



Speech By  
**Dale Last**


**MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Lake Eyre Basin**

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (2.24 pm): I rise today to speak about the atrocious decision made by the Premier on 22 December last year on the future of oil and gas in South-West Queensland. It is a fact that Queenslanders are currently in the midst of a cost-of-living crisis. There would not be many Queenslanders who have not turned the tap on a gas bottle when hosting family and friends for a barbecue. Many people would not know that the LPG in 17 million of those gas bottles was produced right here in Queensland. No-one knows for how much longer that will be the case. This government's own Energy and Jobs Plan says that we need more gas to be developed in Queensland to reduce emissions and lower power prices, but this government has not only abandoned its own plan; it has also abandoned Queenslanders facing a cost-of-living crisis. The decision to stop future oil and gas production in the Lake Eyre Basin and put a blanket ban on unconventional gas extraction is a decision that means less gas, job losses, higher prices for households and businesses, and a higher risk of blackouts.

The consultation regulation impact statement for the Queensland Lake Eyre Basin identified several options, including three spatial options and four regulatory options, in an effort to best protect the Queensland Lake Eyre Basin's river systems while also supporting economic prosperity across the region for the long term. It will come as no surprise to many that this government selected the harshest of the four regulatory options, effectively using a sledgehammer to crack a nut—and we do not even know if it will work. In its assessment for the regulation impact statement for one of this government's first policy decisions, the Office of Best Practice Regulation found that the CRIS 'does not contain details sufficient to inform full consideration of the options and their potential impacts' and draws particular attention to the fact that the document does not articulate whether less prohibitive measures could achieve a similar degree of effectiveness at a lower cost or whether any of the proposed options can even deliver a net benefit to the Queensland community.

What we do know is that for more than 60 years oil and gas exploration and development in the Lake Eyre Basin has been effectively and appropriately managed. We know that royalties from the region fund new roads, schools and hospitals across the state and make a huge contribution to local government via the payment of rates. No-one wants to see a reduction in the environmental value of the Lake Eyre Basin or any other area of Queensland, but the fact is that this decision fails this Labor government's own test. It is a decision that will have a significant impact on gas supply. It is a decision that means higher costs for Queenslanders at a time they can least afford it. Make no mistake: this decision was more about scoring political points than protecting the environment in this state.