




Speech By
Hon. David Janetzki

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

Record of Proceedings, 28 November 2024

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Energy, Government Owned Corporations

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (10.12 am): Mr Speaker, with your indulgence I want to offer my personal congratulations to you for your elevation to this high office. I cannot think of a more decent man to fulfil it, not just as my electoral neighbour but also as a Central Downs farmer. Congratulations, Mr Speaker.

In the early afternoon of 25 May 2021, a new battery charger was ready to be installed into CS Energy's Callide Power Station unit C4. The unit was plugged in to the Queensland power grid, exporting electricity from its system, as it had done for decades—but the process failed. Unit C4 was without a power source. It had not been disconnected from the grid properly; nor had it been shut down safely. Control room screens went blank. Operators could not see the power plant systems reverse and start importing power from the grid. They were unaware that hydrogen was escaping, likely causing fires, or of the rotor shaft and bearings grinding together.

At 2.07 pm, the tensions combined with dramatic effect. The rotor shaft blew apart into nine parts. One part, weighing more than two tonnes, flew across the turbine hall. Another 300-kilogram part punched through the air. The resulting electrical fault sent the system haywire and destabilised the entire Queensland power grid. Fortunately, no-one was killed. We know what happened after that: secrecy and subterfuge from CS Energy and the Labor government; buck-passing; blame-shifting; and Callide C4 was offline for more than 1,100 days, creating widespread blackouts and adding insult to the injury of rising household and business power bills.

The investigative Brady report into the incident condemned the organisation's 'failure to value and implement effective process safety practices'. We learned about the 2020 shareholding ministers' mandate that prioritised cost savings and constrained the government owned corporations' investment strategies. We also learned that over the past five years executives at our energy government owned corporations, the GOCs, have pocketed over \$2 million in performance bonuses. This even included bonuses to CS Energy senior executives in the aftermath of the 2021 Callide C explosion.

Well, no more. Today we introduce the Crisafulli government's new Electricity Maintenance Guarantee. The guarantee is a new investment, performance and accountability framework for Queensland's publicly owned electricity generators. The guarantee will give us greater oversight than ever before of our GOCs' maintenance and overall performance. We need to ensure GOCs are investing back into the assets owned by Queenslanders so they are properly maintained.

Under the guarantee, Stanwell, CS Energy and CleanCo will be provided with investment certainty to deliver on their five-year maintenance programs. This represents an investment of more than \$1.4 billion to 2028-29. This will ensure GOCs prioritise maintenance expenditure, with no immediate budget impact or additional funding from government. There is no excuse not to maintain assets.

GOCs will also be accountable for performance, including clear KPIs across maintenance, personal safety, process safety and plant performance. Under the guarantee, all senior executives will be subject to the same 'no performance payments' policy if KPIs are not met. This is made clear in the letters addressed to the three energy GOC chairs sent by me and the finance minister this morning which I now table.

Tabled paper: Letter, undated, from the Treasurer and Minister for Energy, Hon. David Janetzki, and the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training, Hon. Ros Bates, to the Chair, CleanCo Queensland Limited, Ms Allison Warburton, regarding strategic performance expectations [200](#).

Tabled paper: Letter, undated, from the Treasurer and Minister for Energy, Hon. David Janetzki, and the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training, Hon. Ros Bates, to the Chair, CS Energy Limited, Mr Adam Aspinall, regarding strategic performance expectations [201](#).

Tabled paper: Letter, undated, from the Treasurer and Minister for Energy, Hon. David Janetzki, and the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training, Hon. Ros Bates, to the Chair, Stanwell Corporation Limited, Mr Paul Binsted, regarding strategic performance expectations [202](#).

The guarantee will restore focus and responsible economic management of our GOCs after years of Labor government mismanagement. We are about rebuilding public trust in our operations and ensuring worker safety. Unlike those opposite, we will drive real reform to put downward pressure on Queenslanders' power bills.