



Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**


**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 February 2024

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Energy Assets**

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (2.25 pm): It has been 994 days since the catastrophic explosion at the Callide Power Station which sent power prices through the roof. What has this government done? Absolutely nothing. They have sat on their hands. Today we have seen a highly published, highly made-up video of how the explosion happened. We certainly have not heard why the explosion happened. After 994 days, all we see is a Hollywood video, but in this plot we know who the villain is. The villain is the Labor government. It is a government that has sent power prices through the roof. There has been a 19.9 per cent rise, higher than any other state in the nation. Just like the Leader of the Opposition said, this is triple the rate of other states. This is unacceptable.

We know that this would never have happened if the Labor government had maintained their assets. After 994 days, a vitally important report into the Callide C explosion has still not been released. We still have not heard from forensic engineer, Sean Brady, around what went wrong and why this happened. What we have seen is a sanitised video. Let's remember, two weeks ago Minister de Brenni stood up and said he had not seen and did not know anything about this issue. The minister has been called out today because of how long it takes to produce one of these highly sanitised videos to try to explain what happened at Callide. They have been keeping Queenslanders in the dark. Their prices are going through the roof. They are suffering from blackouts. They are suffering from brownouts. The question has to be asked: why? It is because the Labor government has failed to maintain its energy assets. It is only the LNP that is committed to a maintenance guarantee.

We know that the government has been completely silent. Let's also save the fake performance from the energy minister when he says he does not know anything: 'I can't see anything. Don't know anything.' The minister is the shareholding minister along with the Treasurer, and both of these jokers have no clue—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): I ask you to withdraw that.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I withdraw. The two ministers, who are the shareholding ministers of this vitally important energy asset, try to tell Queenslanders that it is not their fault; that they do not know what is happening. I would say to them: why do they deserve the pay cheque of a shareholding minister if they have no clue what is going on within the energy assets?

Let's have a look at what else has been happening on the national stage when it comes to the Queensland government's incompetence and inability to manage its power assets. There is not just one court case, but two court cases. The first court case sees the Federal Court tearing up the Labor government's excuses in and around what went wrong at that horrific, catastrophic explosion, but then we have the Australian Energy Regulator, the base energy police, basically dragging the Queensland government to court to say, 'Answer why you have failed every Queenslander. This affects every Queenslander with their energy bills going up.'

It is not just us saying that. The Queensland Competition Authority is saying that prices are increasing. The Auditor-General of Queensland is debunking what this incompetent minister has said. At estimates in 2021, the minister said that the catastrophic explosion at Callide would not increase power prices. That has been debunked. The Hollywood video that he put out today has basically caught him out because it says absolutely nothing about why. He refuses to explain to Queenslanders why their power bills have risen by 19 per cent. It is completely unacceptable.

We have heard Shane Brunner from the CFMEU calling out the government and saying that these assets must be maintained. We have to maintain them; more must be done. Let's not forget some of the other comments that the minister has failed to explain. When did CS Energy and Minister de Brenni first receive Labor's secret Callide report? I bet they have that report. I bet they are sitting on it and I bet they have spent thousands—if not hundreds of thousands—of Queenslanders' dollars releasing this highly sanitised video. What did he know and when did he know it? When will we find out that our power prices are going to reduce because Labor will try to maintain our assets and protect the workers? When did CS Energy start producing this Hollywood video? Why were Queenslanders kept in the dark? Queenslanders are trying to keep their lights on, but they cannot trust the chaos and confusion of this Labor government. They need to release the Callide report today.

*(Time expired)*