




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENTS

Callide Power Station; Nanango Electorate, Cancer Care

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (2.12 pm): Three years on from the catastrophic explosion of the Callide C power plant, Queenslanders are still waiting for answers on how and why this major incident occurred. In the aftermath of that extraordinary explosion, the Minister for Energy, Minister de Brenni, called on forensic engineer Dr Sean Brady to investigate that explosion in terms of what happened. Three years on we are yet still to see that report or have that report released. Queenslanders are all in the dark about what happened at Callide. Even the unions have said that the government should release the report. It has taken a Federal Court decision to force the Palaszczuk-Miles government to release that secret report. As I said, even one of the unions that installed this Premier in Queensland in the coup is demanding that Labor release that report.

Whistleblowers have told the LNP that a lack of maintenance caused the explosion, which has driven up power prices in Queensland. We know that, when the unions are speaking out and there are major maintenance issues at Callide on this government's watch, this is putting those hard workers at risk. Labor simply does not want to be up-front and honest with the truth. It will say and do anything to cling to power, including fighting to keep the Brady report secret. Queenslanders deserve the answers so that there is not another power plant explosion. In 2023 Queenslanders faced the highest power bills—three times the national average with a rise of 19.9 per cent—all because the Callide Power Station was offline. I say to the government: release the Brady report. What is it hiding? Why is it not standing up for the workers at Callide and the people of Queensland who are struggling to pay their power bills?

On another issue, I want to talk about cancer care in the South Burnett. Over 1,700 people a year leave South Burnett on a daily basis to get cancer treatment. Unfortunately, the South Burnett lost its specialist cancer care nurse in 2020 and, despite a local petition with more than 1,500 signatures, the role was not reinstated. It was moved to Toowoomba instead. The role was highly valued by our cancer patients, who were very disappointed to lose this specific service which helped guide them through their cancer journey. I, along with Sue—a major advocate from the McGrath Foundation and an all-cancer nurse based in the South Burnett—firmly believe that there is a definite and ongoing need for the provision of a cancer-specific nursing service in the South Burnett. I say again in this chamber: why should regional Queenslanders get sub care when it comes to not just maternity but also cancer care in the bush? The only way to stop this is to show Labor the door in '24.