




Speech By
Hon. Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

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**RESOURCES SAFETY AND HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL;
MINERAL AND ENERGY RESOURCES AND OTHER LEGISLATION
AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (6.28 pm): I rise tonight to make a brief contribution to the cognate debate. Many in this House know that protecting the Great Artesian Basin in this state is something I am very passionate about. That is why I was so proud to stand with the Premier recently to announce that the Miles Labor government would ban carbon capture and storage in the Great Artesian Basin. I know it means a lot to a lot of people. This policy is certainly nation leading. That is right: the Miles Labor government is leading the nation and taking strong action to protect this vital water asset for Queenslanders not only now but well and truly into the future. I urge the federal government to have a look at it—and the Premier mentioned today that he has written to both the Prime Minister and also the ministers responsible—to follow our lead on carbon capture, particularly in the Great Artesian Basin.

The LNP cannot continue to pull the wool over the eyes of Queenslanders about carbon capture. Last year the state council of the LNP defeated Colin Boyce's motion at its conference on the banning of carbon capture, so not even the former member for Callide could get a motion through the LNP's state conference to ban carbon capture in this state. Queenslanders are not going to be taken for fools. Those opposite really are in an uncomfortable marriage between the Liberals and the National Party. There are the old-school Nationals like the member for Condamine and the member for Warrego. They pretend to listen to farmers but are ultimately in the back pockets of the gas companies in Queensland.

Very recently I made the effort to ring Mayor Zoro Radnedge of Murweh to talk about the carbon capture storage issue happening in his area. I asked him how many times the local member had contacted the mayor of Murweh in relation to this. Guess how many times he said he had talked to the local member about carbon capture storage in Murweh? Zero! The local member did not even mention it to him once. He was disgusted that he had not had a conversation with her around it even after he had publicly said that he and the council did not want to see carbon capture storage in his area. Queenslanders will always come second under the LNP while Queenslanders will always come first under Labor.

National Party boss David Littleproud backs in carbon capture, so that goes against what the Nationals in the room are saying today about carbon capture as opposed to the Liberal members. When in government he even stumped up \$5 million for carbon capture storage as part of the project that tonight we are trying to ensure will not happen again in Queensland. If members do not believe me about David Littleproud and his support for carbon capture they need only look at the Nationals website. It is right next to the bit where it says that nuclear power should be in Queensland. There are two things that the National Party in Queensland supports: putting carbon capture into the Great Artesian Basin and nuclear power.

As we heard earlier today, the member for Bonney supports what we are trying to do. He is one of the good Liberals who supports what we are doing in regional Queensland and the bush. Still those opposite are pretending to be a small target by papering over the tension because the LNP really does have this uncomfortable marriage in Queensland. They are keeping up appearances, but the family barbecues are a disaster. The hypocrisy of those opposite is unbelievable. It is next level. We have to remember their former deputy prime minister. When asked if he backed farmers over miners, he said that he had nothing to answer in that space. Those opposite and their colleagues do not even support the farmers that they purport to support. That is typical LNP: it says one thing to the farmers out in the regions and another thing to its mining mates in Brisbane.

I am speaking about the protection of the GAB in the bill, and it is an important part of this cognate debate tonight. Here are a few other examples. The Condamine SEC is urging the state LNP to adopt carbon capture as part of its environmental policy in Queensland. No wonder the CTSCo project got the go-ahead from the LNP federally. Then we have the member for Callide—my favourite member over there—telling the people that he is an experienced geologist in Queensland and that carbon capture and storage in the GAB is a good idea. He has rocks in his head if, as a geologist, he is telling that to the people of regional Queensland. Between his ears is certainly a confined aquifer. I know I am onto a good thing when former member Colin Boyce texts me and starts telling me little stories about the movements of the member for Callide and the conversations he has been having with mayors in regional Queensland about carbon capture and storage being a good thing. Tonight in his speech he made no mention of the Great Artesian Basin and the fact that the LNP supports carbon capture in the Great Artesian Basin.

Members of the LNP and particularly the Nationals are hypocrites in this space in relation to carbon capture because they say one thing in here—that is, that they do not support carbon capture—but out in the regions and on their party platform they say that they support carbon capture in Queensland. Who can forget the member for Burdekin reading the gas industry's talking points in here in mid-February, talking down the Channel Country protection? It was also great to see the member for Bonney, in a helicopter, celebrating his third year as the shadow environment minister by looking at the region with a few other members from the LNP who are in the House tonight. Clearly the LNP cannot be trusted to protect the Great Artesian Basin and the Lake Eyre Basin in Queensland.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BUTCHER: It is the Miles Labor government that is listening to Queenslanders, listening to the farmers, listening to the irrigators and taking strong action—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order! Pause the clock. Member for Southern Downs, member for Gregory and member for Theodore, you have all had a pretty good go. Member for Southern Downs, your last interjection was verging on the disorderly. Please restrain yourself.

Mr BUTCHER: It is the Miles Labor government that is listening to Queenslanders and taking strong action to protect the Great Artesian Basin for future generations. I commend the amendments in the bill.