Speech By

Hon. Lance McCallum

MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Liberal National Party, Renewable Energy

Hon. LR McCALLUM (Bundamba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (2.31 pm): It is a pleasure to follow the shadow spokesperson for energy because there is no clearer contrast between Labor's plan for our clean energy future and the national nuclear nightmare that is being pushed by radical Liberals and Nationals. From Fukushima to Three Mile Island and Hinkley Point to Chernobyl, the Liberals and Nationals will ignore the risks to both our communities and our power bills because they are completely beholden to their own vested interests.

The LNP nuclear nightmare is being spearheaded by their federal leader, Peter Dutton, or as I like to call him, 'Peter Duttonheimer', in a reckless campaign to nuke Australia's energy system and send power bills for our homes and businesses through the roof. He made this crystal clear recently in a speech to the Council of Small Business Organisations Australia. As revealed earlier today, it seems that the LNP Leader of the Opposition here in Queensland could be in on it, too. His diary confirms a meeting about energy with a nuclear proponent. Was it a secret LNP briefing on nuclear energy? While the details of that meeting remain hidden by the LNP, one thing is crystal clear: they are extremely tricky with words and evasive in providing answers of any substance or any detail on policy. The LNP are as toxic as a drum of nuclear waste, and Queenslanders simply cannot trust them. We know that there is no-one in the state LNP, from the leader down, who will stand up to Dutton and stick up for Queenslanders. They will simply do as they always do—lie down and do as they are told.

More and more Queenslanders are voicing concern over this LNP nuclear nightmare that is aimed squarely at our suburbs, our workers and our agricultural food bowls. The LNP's plan for nuclear power is not only expensive and dangerous but also, by the time it is built, too late for our climate. Not only has nuclear power been outlawed across the country, and not only has the CSIRO, our national science agency, declared it the most expensive and slowest to build, but the LNP themselves cannot even agree on in whose backyards they will build nuclear reactors.

In a recent article in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, LNP MPs were asked where would the nuclear power stations go and if they would be happy to have one in their electorates. Not many were. Ted O'Brien and Llew O'Brien are not willing to entertain them yet on the Sunshine Coast or in Wide Bay. In fact, the majority who were asked said, no, they did not want them in their own backyards.

Nuclear energy is such a bad idea that the LNP cannot even convince themselves on it, although Michelle Landry is apparently happy for one to go in at an unused coal-fired power station in probably another waste of taxpayers' money in Collinsville. However, I am not sure how the rest of her community would feel about it.

Under the LNP it is not a matter of if, but when, nuclear energy will be driving up costs for our homes and businesses. Renewable energy is the cheapest, cleanest and most secure form of new energy generation. That is why the Miles Labor government is all in on investing heavily in new wind,

solar and storage projects that will power Queensland for generations to come. Queenslanders simply cannot risk the alternatives of political extremes. Labor is the only party with a real plan to take real action on clean energy and climate change. The LNP do not support coal royalties and cannot deliver a clean energy transition, nor the jobs and new industries that come with it. They would rather back expensive, privatised nuclear energy with environmentally damaging nuclear waste. Make no mistake, the LNP will make their plan to cut renewables a reality because Peter Dutton will make the Leader of the Opposition and the state LNP deliver nuclear power instead.