




Speech By
Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGE

Record of Proceedings, 12 December 2024

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Renewable Energy

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (2.36 pm): It has been just over a month since the state election and Queenslanders have already seen the new Crisafulli government's alarming lack of vision for Queensland's transition to a decarbonised future. The recent scrapping of the Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro scheme with no alternative plan only reaffirms the LNP's lack of commitment when it comes to renewables and real climate action. The benefits of the Pioneer-Burdekin scheme were clear. For Queenslanders, the scheme would have delivered a world-leading long-duration energy storage system, ensuring reliable, affordable and clean energy supply for Queensland households. The project would have enabled Queensland to meet global and legislated emissions targets by avoiding 5.7 million to 9.8 million tonnes per year of CO₂ emissions. The project would have delivered between \$14 million and \$16 million to the Mackay region's gross regional product and generated up to 950 jobs annually as a result of increased economic activity.

Shareholders and customers are increasingly demanding that companies meet carbon reduction and net-zero targets. Jurisdictions such as the EU are imposing tariffs on carbon-intensive imports. The writing has long been on the wall. Continued reliance on emissions-intensive electricity will limit export opportunities and disadvantage Queensland's exports compared to countries moving faster towards net zero.

A coordinated energy transition is critical to supporting local jobs and communities now and having a plan to retain domestic and international confidence into the future—a future that is now uncertain. The big question is: what is the Crisafulli government's plan to meet our legislated targets—targets that those opposite agreed to when in opposition? Of course, we know that the now Premier does not in fact have any plan to transition Queensland—no plan to decarbonise the electricity network and no ambition in respect of real action on climate change—and it is well past time that he was honest with Queenslanders about it.

While those opposite have no plan, their federal LNP colleagues certainly do. We know their plan for Queensland's nuclear future: two nuclear plants, at Callide and Tarong—two plants that would take 10 years to build; plants, to quote the CSIRO, that would be staggeringly expensive to build and make electricity four to six times more expensive for Queensland households. Where would the water come from? Where would the treated water go? What do we do with the nuclear waste? This is a burden that my kids, your kids and every Queenslanders will have to manage for generations. Queenslanders and Queensland's environment cannot afford the government's ineptitude.