



Speech By
Bart Mellish

MEMBER FOR ASPLEY

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MOTION

Net Zero

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (6.02 pm): It is always a pleasure to follow the minister for milk and junkets. Just like someone with bad back pain, the LNP is paralysed by the words 'net zero'. They do not want to use the words 'net zero'. The Treasurer accidentally mentioned it, but no-one else will on their side. Just like abortion and just like pill testing, the Premier does not want to give it any air time. This was a simply worded motion—half a sentence—and they could not do it. Like on so many issues, the Premier tries to have it both ways. Where on the spectrum of anti-net-zero does the Premier stand? Federally, he has some great company in Queensland, as we know. The Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party, Ted O'Brien, based here in Queensland, recently changed his mind and voted to scrap net zero. The members from Mirani and Maryborough said no in the chamber here before they heard their first contribution and then pulled their heads in. The Leader of the Nationals federally, of course, voted to scrap net zero. In fact, almost every single federal LNP MP voted against it, including all outside of South-East Queensland.

How can we trust the Premier to bring down emissions and commit to net zero when his colleagues have turned their back on this once bipartisan issue? This is yet another issue on which the Premier wants to take different positions depending on who he talks to. Ask him in Brisbane and he is a suave moderate, commending corporations for taking ESG principles on board and schmoozing his way around the south-east. Ask him in Townsville or Toowoomba and he will bang on about coal. Ask him in his party room and he will probably say something else entirely.

An opposition member: Be normal.

Mr MELLISH: 'Be normal. Be normal.' That is what the Premier says. Speaking of 'be normal', just ask the Deputy Premier and you will get some sort of weird dress-up version impersonation of Trump. This is the Deputy Premier, of course, who scrapped a billion dollar wind farm on the basis of fake submissions written using AI. As the *Courier-Mail* reported on 12 November, Rainforest Reserves Australia's submission in the state government's review cited a report by the Queensland Environment Protection Agency, an organisation that does not exist, and referred to an Oakey wind farm contamination report, despite there being no wind farm anywhere near the town. In fact, Rainforest Reserves Australia gathered around 380 of the 470 individual submissions opposing the wind farm. In fact, the *Guardian* wrote on this in October, and when the journalist suspected the responses they were getting from this group were written using AI, the astroturf group admitted that, yes, they were. The article in the *Guardian* states—

When the *Guardian* asked RRA if the responses to its questions had been generated using AI, Smith responded "Yes" in an email, and added that it was "the most efficient way to review everything properly ...

Mr Bleijie: I don't read the *Guardian*.

Mr MELLISH: I can go back to the *Courier-Mail* article if the Deputy Premier prefers.

So we have AI submissions and AI responses to a journalist and what looks clearly like an AI response to the journalist calling you out on the use of AI written by AI. I suppose at least the dodgy group was using some intelligence, unlike the government. Truly, this must call into question the validity of that rejection from the Deputy Premier. He was either in cahoots with the fake AI group or he was clearly fooled by them. Which is it?

Perhaps even more galling than that is that we have heard that the energy minister did not even know about the decision to scrap Moonlight Range until he read about it in the paper. His own team does not support his Energy Roadmap. In his contribution before, the Treasurer listed the people who supported his road map. He said Treasury support his road map. Well done, Treasurer, on getting your own department to not oppose your plan that you have just released. That is an astonishingly low bar.

I know that the Deputy Premier has been moonlighting as the transport minister—scrapping rail to Maroochydore, killing light rail, generally freelancing the portfolio—but now we see the Deputy Premier also riding roughshod over his own Treasurer. Not only does this show how weak the Treasurer is; it shows how weak the Premier is. We know that the Treasurer is the Premier's counterbalance to the Deputy Premier's influence on his government, but, sadly, the Premier will not stand up for him. We know that the Premier hates it when the deputy gets a bigger cheer in question time. We know it grinds his ego, and we also know that the Premier is powerless to protect his Treasurer when all of the big calls on energy, all of the board appointments in his portfolio and all of the staffing in his GOCs are being run by the Deputy Premier. What a weak Premier and what a weak Treasurer.

Mr SPEAKER: Member, that is unparliamentary language. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr MELLISH: Sure. I am happy to talk more about the climate deniers over on that side.

Mr SPEAKER: No. Withdraw. I asked you to withdraw that comment about the Premier.

Mr MELLISH: I am sorry, Mr Speaker; I withdraw.

Just do not ask the energy minister. We know that he is not really in charge of his portfolio. Adding to the climate deniers over there, Lawrence Springborg, the immediate past president of the LNP, said while he was in opposition that climate change was caused by volcanos in the oceans; David Littleproud demanded that all carbon taxes and restrictions should be removed; and the member for Glass House said that he believes the climate is changing but he is still to be convinced of the degree to which we are influencing. When asked recently, he said that he stands by those comments. This government is a joke when it comes to net zero.

(Time expired)