



Speech By
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ENERGY ROADMAP AMENDMENT BILL

GREENHOUSE GAS STORAGE AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

 **Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (4.42 pm): I rise to speak on the Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill 2025. Before I address the substance of the bill, I want to acknowledge the parliamentary staff and Hansard for their support to the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee throughout this process and over the year.

Let's be clear about what this Energy Roadmap is going to do for Queensland. This is going to be bad for Queensland: bad for its economy, bad for Queensland families, bad for business. It is going to lead to an increase in power prices when we know families are already doing it tough. Yesterday in his speech, the Treasurer said that the committee had a 'detailed, consideration process'. That is a stretch. The truth is that the committee had one public hearing. We had 41 submissions to this bill, we had one 90-minute public hearing, which was actually held before submissions had even closed, and we got to hear from four submitters. Anyone else who wanted to give evidence to the committee was not given the opportunity to do so. What I would say is not only is the government trying to gag debate on policies that matter to people, they are also gagging public hearings. They are not allowing stakeholders to have due consideration when it comes to policies; they just want to push through their agenda because they want to push through their ideology, which is that they do not believe in climate change.

We know there were submitters who wanted to appear before the committee because they put that in their submission. The Australian Institute for Progress wrote in their submission letter—

We would be very interested in giving evidence to the committee in any hearings it may undertake.

Unfortunately, they were denied this opportunity as were many others. There is so much to say about transparency. Every time this government comes into this chamber all they do is talk rhetoric about transparency and accountability, but then we see them do things like guillotining debates to try to get bills through without having considered debates on the matter.

It is no secret that Queensland families are hurting right now. I hear it every day, as I am sure all members of this House do. I know that one of the biggest things impacting families is the increase in electricity costs. According to ABS data, since October 2024 under this LNP government electricity costs have increased by up to 486 per cent and according to the Australian Energy Regulator, the number of Queensland households in hardship has increased by 66 per cent over the past six months. That is over 12,000 Queensland families who are doing it incredibly tough.

In my local community I have heard directly from constituents struggling with these rising costs. Lenice from Brighton, who needs to charge her daughter's electric wheelchair regularly, says she is barely keeping up. Labor's energy rebates had helped but now they have gone, her bills have risen

significantly and she can no longer afford to pay her upcoming bill. I have heard from Chris from Taigum, who has taken every step to reduce his household electricity use, yet he is paying more than ever under the LNP. Peter from Brighton is worried about his grandchildren and their futures. He wonders whether they will be able to experience the beauty of the Great Barrier Reef and whether they will face the increasing impacts of climate change and extreme weather events.

Like Lenice, Chris and Peter, there are thousands of Queenslanders who want this government to hear their concerns. They want confidence that energy prices will come down and that this government will stick with net zero by 2050. We know that that will not be the case because how can they deliver something that they fundamentally do not believe in, when they do not believe in science and they do not believe in climate change? I know this government refuses to talk about it, but we cannot talk about scrapping renewable targets without talking about what it means for climate change and what it means for our environment and Queensland's ecosystem.

Regarding climate change, the member for Glass House and now environment minister said—

Am I 100 per cent convinced of the human population's role in that? No I'm not.

In September, the *Courier-Mail* reported that coal closure dates would be included in the Energy Roadmap, and by October it was published that those dates had disappeared, scrubbed out by pressure from the party room. Instead, we got a 'decision matrix' with no quantitative metrics, no transparency and no accountability. The member for Mirani celebrated when the LNP convention voted to ditch net zero and the member for Kawana cancelled wind farm projects using AI submissions. You actually cannot make this up. Are they kidding?

The Queensland Conservation Council analysis found that under this bill Queensland will likely only reach 50 per cent emissions reductions by 2035, a staggering 25 per cent less than the legislated target. Multiple submissions confirmed this road map makes meeting those targets impossible. The Smart Energy Council put it pretty bluntly, saying—

This approach is not driven by science, economics, or technology, but by politics.

The government's claim that the Energy Roadmap is going to save households over a thousand dollars is untrue. Analysis by Jacobs commissioned by the Clean Energy Council actually found that delaying the shift to renewable energy could cost Queenslanders between \$568 and \$729 more. Why? It is because renewable energy is the cheapest form of electricity generation. That is not an ideology; that is fact. The Queensland Renewable Energy Council confirmed this at our hearing. The CSIRO's report confirms it. The International Energy Agency confirms it. The only people who are not willing to listen to science are the LNP government. When asked directly in the hearing, 'Is this the cheapest form of energy?', the answer from the experts was: yes. This government just wants to extend the life of coal-fired power stations, some of which according to their own Energy Roadmap rank amongst the lowest in terms of availability.

The Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis has warned of heightened risk for price volatility and reliability risks from this approach. Both the Queensland Conservation Council and Whitsunday Conservation Council have raised concerns that the forecasts contained in the Energy Roadmap will actually make sure there is no investment in renewable energy projects and would lead to the loss of 1,500 construction jobs which will now go to other states. That means other states like New South Wales and Victoria are going to benefit from the fact that the LNP wants to give investors no confidence. That is like telling our investors, 'Do not come here. We don't want your business.' So much for their slogan of Queensland is open for business. It is not. That is what they are telling investors in renewable energy.

Government members interjected.

Mr Whiting: Every day is a good day to have a go at a woman, isn't it?

Ms ASIF: Yes. You are children if you are mimicking me.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Order! Member, direct your comments through the chair, please.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. I just called the House to order. I would ask that members cease quarrelling across the chamber and cease interjections.

Ms ASIF: This bill also puts the World Heritage status of the Great Barrier Reef at risk. I was fortunate to meet some of the operators on the reef in Cairns who work hard to support local jobs, and they have rung alarm bells when it comes to this legislation. They say it is bad for the environment, it is bad for the economy and it is bad for their local jobs.

The LNP has already begun its privatisation. The Brigalow peaker was earmarked for full public ownership under Labor and the LNP has now sold off 80 per cent, with CS Energy to buy back the power for at least 25 years. The government's own modelling shows that under this new framework generation and storage will fall to less than 40 per cent. We are losing the promise of affordable power. We are losing any credible path to meeting our emissions targets.

This bill delivers higher electricity bills for families. The government is playing political games while Queenslanders like Chris, Lenice, Peter and thousands more continue to struggle. They struggle with the cost of living and they struggle with the rising cost of power. This is what happens when a party that spends years arguing about renewables and the climate is suddenly found in charge of running the government and trying to bring Queensland forward. All it is doing is dragging it backwards. Queenslanders deserve a government that looks to the future, not drags it back—one that looks at evidence when it comes to energy policy, not late-night negotiations between its conservative factions.

Queensland should be leading Australia's clean energy transformation. We have everything we need. We have the resources, we have the skilled workforce, we have people ready to build Queensland's future—ready to build a cleaner energy future and strong public ownership of energy assets. We have everything except a government that is willing to deliver. Instead, it wants to put its climate-denying ideology ahead of Queensland's future.