




Speech By
Bryson Head

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Record of Proceedings, 25 June 2025

MOTION

Energy Industry

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (5.45 pm): I am more than happy to rise in this House to speak in support of the amendment moved by the honourable member for Burdekin, Dale Last. For those who might have missed a bit of history that I talk about in this House, I am a geologist.

Mr McDonald: A geologist?

Mr HEAD: I am a geologist. As a geologist—

Mr Last: I knew it.

Mr HEAD: I will take that interjection from the member for Burdekin. I was a rock licker, as some say. I worked in coalmines across the eastern seaboard of this country.

Mr McDonald: Is that a rock detective?

Mr HEAD: I do not know if you would call it a rock detective, but maybe we should take on that title. As a geologist working in coalmines in Queensland and other parts of the nation, I could see firsthand how much that industry contributed to our nation, how much wealth it provided. You could not work in that industry without knowing how fortunate we are to have that industry to provide cheap and reliable electricity to our nation. Energy security is something that underpins national security and national prosperity.

Mr McDonald interjected.

Mr HEAD: Thank you, member for Lockyer; I hope the rest of it is good too. Energy security relates directly to national prosperity. It is important that we continue to improve the mess that we have inherited from the previous government, which did not factor in the need for base load reliable and affordable power. We saw that with the significant price rises we had on our electricity bills.

As the member for Callide, I do not get to spend much time at home. When I paid my electricity bill last week, I once again could not believe how expensive it had got. That is something on the minds of a lot of people across this nation and across Queensland because of the power price rises we have seen. Instead of the previous government fixing the fundamentals and ensuring we had coal-fired generators that were properly maintained and would operate into the future providing that base load affordable and reliable power, they turned around and gave us one-off sugar hits of handouts on our energy bill and they front-loaded it right before the election so that most Queenslanders did not have to pay a power bill between 1 July last year—or whenever that rebate kicked in—and the election. That rebate has now expired and they never funded it into the future. They are saying that we cut rebates, but you cannot cut something that did not exist. I put that on the record.

This is the mess that we are trying to fix. To fix this mess we need to look at those coal-fired generators and other forms of generation like gas peakers. I commend the Treasurer for investing significant money—I think it is nearly \$500 million in the next financial year—for the Brigalow gas

peaking plant which is around the corner from where I live near the Kogan Creek Power Station. It is generation like that which is incredibly important to get into the grid to help restabilise it and drive down electricity prices. Our electricity grid operates in a supply and demand market. That means the more supply that is available to bid into the market at any point in time, the lower the wholesale price will be, and in turn the retail price for consumers will be lower.

As the member for Callide, the other point I would like to make is that we currently produce about one-quarter of Queensland's electricity. We are a powerhouse electorate, through the works of the Callide Power Station and the Kogan Creek Power Station, and of course we have the Condamine gas peaker there as well which provides a bit of important generation to our grid. I want to make sure that we can continue being the powerhouse electorate. I back the workers who live in those communities and who want to live and work in those communities, and that is why I back the moves of our government to fix the mess of the former government and invest in our base load supply. That ensures the future of those jobs for the communities I represent. Those people move there because they want to live there. They are great communities. Chinchilla and Biloela is where the workers of those power stations live and work. As their local member, I am happy to stand up here and support all programs that ensure their future and, of course for every Queenslander, programs that ensure we have cheap, reliable and affordable electricity for all of Queensland.