



Speech By
Bryson Head


MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Record of Proceedings, 10 December 2025

ENERGY ROADMAP AMENDMENT BILL

GREENHOUSE GAS STORAGE AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (4.36 pm): I love coal and I love the great benefits that it brings the communities across Callide and rural and regional Queensland. Coal delivers many jobs and it delivers baseload power for the state of Queensland to power our manufacturing sector, to power our heavy industries and to underpin the economic prosperity of our state. I am not ashamed to mention that word and back in that important material that we use in our power stations across Queensland. We also export a lot of it for not only power but also steelmaking.

This is a fantastic energy bill. It removes the market intervention that those opposite were determined to enforce upon Queensland. They get up here with all of these platitudes saying how cheap renewable energy is. If renewable energy is that cheap, you do not need the government to force it upon the state; you can let it happen through private investment, which is what sensible governments do. That is exactly what the Crisafulli LNP government is allowing. We are ensuring we take a measured approach. We have the appropriate planning framework in place so that communities are involved.

Those opposite took an ideological position that was steamrolling communities across rural and regional Queensland to enforce their agenda. Alongside that, they were also stripping away jobs from communities like Biloela with the premature closure of the Callide Power Station. We have scrapped that and we have extended its life. We are spending about \$1.6 billion on our Electricity Maintenance Guarantee here in Queensland, and that is a great thing for communities like Biloela and Chinchilla that I represent. I am happy to stand up for those jobs in those communities.

If those opposite vote against this bill tonight, they are voting against the \$150 million energy workers job security fund. They are voting against a fund for those workers to make sure we have the skills into the future that we need. They are also voting against allowing the market to operate as it was intended. They are voting against 100 per cent ownership of the Callide B units and the Kogan Creek Power Station as well as the other government owned coal-fired power stations we have in the state. They try to talk about us wanting to sell assets and everything like that. If they vote against this, that is showing their position into the future which would suggest that they would be up for selling the Kogan Creek or Callide power stations that are currently publicly owned and should stay that way. We have a great workforce in those communities.

The great thing is that, amongst all this, not only are we ensuring jobs for these communities for a lot longer but we have many other things happening in these communities such as building the Brigalow peaker, a great investment for the Western Downs that will provide the baseload power that we need in the electricity system. I am excited about what is to come for that community. We have a great public-private partnership to advance that asset and those opposite are trying to say it is some

evil investment that we pursued. The irony of that statement is that their own QEJP had outlined a public-private partnership for the same asset. The difference is we have actually advanced it, we have saved it and we are making sure that that project will go ahead.

As far as the 400 megawatts that we need in Central Queensland is concerned, I say to industry if there are people listening who want to invest in Queensland for that 400-megawatt unit, there is a great town called Biloela that would happily work with them to see that peaker built. I am calling on the industry for that private gas peaker to be built in Biloela. There is a great opportunity that was outlined in the Energy Roadmap by the Crisafulli government, by the Treasurer, for that peaker to be built in Central Queensland. We have the community; we have the skills. On behalf of our community, I am happy to work with anyone to make sure we snag that.

Those opposite are also talking about cheap power. The reality is what we are doing in the electricity system will deliver over a thousand dollars cheaper power per household in terms of overall costs in the energy system than we inherited from those opposite. They will get up here and scream black and blue that we have abandoned the cheaper system. We are removing market intervention, which in turn will help put downward pressure on power prices. Also the system we are progressing will be over a thousand dollars cheaper per household than what they were determined to force upon Queensland. This is a great bill, a great Energy Roadmap from the Treasurer.

Mr Kempton: A fresh start.

Mr HEAD: I take that interjection. It is certainly a fresh start for Queensland. It is a fantastic bill.

Finally, I reiterate the comments made by the member for Burnett and, of course, the minister for resources about the CTSCo bill to ensure those boreholes can be repurposed for water use for agriculture. It is a sensible piece of legislation that will deliver great things for the constituents of the member for Warrego in that part of the world. Whenever it comes to these matters it is important that we rely on facts and data and have conversations around ensuring we take on board the correct advice and adhere to best practice along the way. I commend both bills to the House.