




Speech By
Hon. Dale Last

MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

Record of Proceedings, 25 June 2025

MOTION

Energy Industry

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (5.35 pm): I move the following amendment—

That all words after 'That this House' be omitted and the following paragraphs inserted:

- '1. acknowledges the government's commitment to make energy affordable, reliable and sustainable;
2. notes the investment into our power stations through the Electricity Maintenance Guarantee;
3. notes the decision of the government to extend the life of our coal-fired power stations to ensure supply; and
4. notes the government's investment in Queensland's gas industry in this year's budget, including funding for power stations and new exploration areas.'

Queenslanders expect affordable power, they expect reliable power and they expect sustainable power. That is exactly what this government is delivering. Our approach to energy is based on economics and engineering: not ideology, like those opposite. Take our coal-fired power stations as an example—the youngest fleet in the country. Under the Crisafulli government they are not being neglected or written off like under those opposite. They are being properly maintained and positioned to play a central role in our energy mix. We are not afraid of saying 'coal' this side of the chamber.

We have introduced the Electricity Maintenance Guarantee, a \$1.6 billion commitment over five years to ensure our publicly owned power stations are maintained properly, kept operational and able to put downward pressure on power prices. Why? Because we know that you cannot keep the lights on without base load power. Let's not forget what happened under those opposite. The former government ran our power assets into the ground, and Queenslanders paid the price in May 2021 when the explosion at the Callide Power Station plunged much of the state into darkness. It was a symbol of Labor's failed ideological approach that left Queenslanders paying more for their power bills. It is one of the many reasons Queenslanders rejected Labor's ideological energy experiment and their so-called Energy and Jobs Plan.

Queenslanders saw right through Labor's \$36 billion hydro hoax, which would have slugged every household in this state over \$15,000 and not have delivered a single watt in time. The Crisafulli government is delivering what Labor never could. We are delivering a real energy strategy based on real economics. Our approach is grounded in the practical needs of the energy grid and the economic needs of Queensland families. It includes unlocking new gas supply, because we understand that the best way to put downward pressure on energy prices is to have more energy in the market.

Just last month I announced that nine new parcels of land comprising 16,000 square kilometres will be open for tender across the Cooper and Surat basins. To give members a sense of the scale of this exploration area, it is 6½ times the size of the ACT. This is about boosting gas supply, creating more competition and putting downward pressure on energy prices. We are sending a strong message

to resource investors that Queensland is open for business. After a decade of antigas and antimining policies from Labor, we are restoring investor confidence and re-establishing Queensland as a place where energy and resources projects can succeed and resource companies are welcomed. They are so welcome, in fact, that the first question I ask resource companies when they walk through my door is whether they have an application for a new project in their pocket.

We are ensuring the success of resource projects continues through the Resources Cabinet Committee. Through the RCC we are cutting red tape, reducing approval timelines and giving proponents the certainty they need to get on with the job, because we understand that time is money. Labor locked up resources, drove investment off a cliff and left Queenslanders paying higher bills. The Crisafulli government is taking a commonsense approach to energy that backs the industries that power our economy—because the best way to bring down energy prices is to bring more energy onto the market.

Queenslanders did not vote for chaos and crisis. They voted for a government that delivers, and that is what this amendment reflects. It reflects the need for a clear-headed, commonsense approach to energy, and it reflects what Queenslanders voted for—a fresh start, a clear direction and a government that is committed to addressing the underlying issues driving up the cost of living. When it comes to addressing cost-of-living pressures, we will make the big decisions and the investment and stand by our word right across Queensland.