



Speech By  
**Hon. Dale Last**


**MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN**

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Record of Proceedings, 26 August 2025

## **GREENHOUSE GAS STORAGE AMENDMENT BILL**

### **Introduction**

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (11.21 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Primary Industries and Resources Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment Bill 2025 [1096](#).

*Tabled paper:* Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment Bill 2025, explanatory notes [1097](#).

*Tabled paper:* Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights [1098](#).

Last year the Queensland parliament passed the Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024. This act legislated a ban on greenhouse gas storage activities in the Great Artesian Basin due to the potential environmental and safety implications on the basin's water resources. The Crisafulli government supported this ban to protect the basin, which plays a critical role in supplying water to towns, local communities and the agricultural sector across the state.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Just a moment, Minister. Members who are leaving the chamber should do so quietly and quickly, otherwise take your conversations outside. Having a conversation in the hallway is better than having it inside the chamber.

**Mr LAST:** As a result of the ban, the greenhouse gas exploration permit held by Carbon Transport and Storage Corporation—CTSCo—was legislatively ended. This permit, known as EPQ10, was the only one of its kind in Queensland and was wholly contained within the Great Artesian Basin. Under the amended Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009, CTSCo must decommission any greenhouse gas wells onsite by plugging and abandoning them within two years.

CTSCo was not consulted on the ban or the terms under which its exploration permit was ended. However, following the ending of its permit, CTSCo proposed an alternative approach to decommissioning: converting its wells to water supply bores for the use and ownership of the landholders where the bores are located. This proposal would provide landowners with long-term access to a new water supply without the financial burden of drilling a new bore. It would also deliver a positive legacy outcome from the now ended CTSCo project. All landowners have expressed support for the proposal and intend to access the Gubberamunda Sandstone aquifer for stock and domestic purposes.

Like the landholders, the Crisafulli government supports this proposal. It supports the beneficial re-use of well infrastructure and aligns with existing government policy under the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, which allows for unused petroleum wells to be converted to water supply bores for landowner use.

The bill I introduce today proposes amendments to the Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009 to provide this alternative decommissioning pathway for CTSCo. The bill sets out a clear process and requirements for CTSCo to either plug and abandon a well in line with existing obligations or convert the well into a water supply bore and transfer ownership to a landowner. Allowing both options provides CTSCo with flexibility and certainty to progress decommissioning in a manner that is safe, practical and beneficial to landowners.

The bill also makes it clear that CTSCo remains responsible for the wells until they are either converted and transferred to landowners or plugged and abandoned. This approach will minimise the long-term liability risk for the state.

To ensure the landholders receive a high-quality, safe and durable asset, the bill requires that all conversion works be carried out by a licensed water bore driller in accordance with a conversion plan and minimum technical requirements. To facilitate the conversion process, the bill streamlines regulatory requirements while removing the need for additional development approval under the Planning Act 2016.

Furthermore, to provide certainty to landowners about accessing and using water from the converted bores, the bill provides that the Water Act regulator will grant a stock water licence upon transfer of ownership. There will be no need for landholders to apply for this licence.

The amendments are targeted and site specific in nature. They will only apply to CTSCo and do not establish a broader, ongoing framework under the act. My department has consulted with CTSCo on the draft bill. CTSCo has confirmed it believes the proposed amendments align with its understanding of the policy intent. Recognising the time required to progress these amendments through parliament, I have exercised my power under the Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009 to extend CTSCo's statutory decommissioning deadline by 12 months from 18 June 2026 to 18 June 2027. This will ensure CTSCo has sufficient time to comply with its decommissioning obligations, following the proposed passage of the bill.

In closing, this bill delivers a sensible, practical and mutually beneficial outcome for both CTSCo and landowners. It supports the responsible repurposing of existing infrastructure, enhances rural water access and maintains environmental and safety standards for bore construction. I commend the bill to the House.

### **First Reading**

**Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (11.26 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

### **Referral to the Primary Industries and Resources Committee**

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Primary Industries and Resources Committee.