




Speech By
Hon. David Janetzki

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

Record of Proceedings, 29 April 2025

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Productivity Commission, Referrals

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (9.51 am): Last week I referred the first inquiry to the re-established Productivity Commission—a comprehensive review of Queensland's construction sector. With the terms of reference for the initial inquiry issued, the commission is required to deliver a report to the government within six months.

The referral comes after Treasury estimated that Best Practice Industry Conditions stood to add \$17 billion to Queensland projects, increase rents by seven per cent and result in 22,000 fewer homes being constructed across the next five years. BPICs, regulatory imposts and other inefficiencies are a significant burden on our state's construction sector and merit close consideration by the Productivity Commission. We need a thriving construction sector to deliver vital infrastructure ahead of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and we need a productive construction sector so we can get on with the job of delivering the hospitals promised under our Hospital Rescue Plan.

Costs, as outlined by the health minister, indicate that budgets doubled on several projects. Costs were impacted by Labor's mismanagement, poor planning and BPICs. On just one project—the new Bundaberg Hospital—the BPIC impact was forecast to add an additional \$130 million to construction costs. Overall, it is estimated that Queensland construction sites operate with 20 per cent lower productivity than other Australian jurisdictions. That must improve.

The second referral to the Productivity Commission will be a targeted referral to provide advice on energy policy and productivity. It will support the development of the Crisafulli government's five-year Energy Roadmap that will deliver affordable, reliable and sustainable power for Queenslanders. Our five-year roadmap that will be completed by the end of this year will be pragmatic and geared towards economics and engineering. The roadmap must align with the priorities of Queensland families and businesses, encourage private sector investment to support the energy shift that is underway and focus on what the state government can practically and plausibly deliver.

The reliability of our government owned generators must be secured. The former Labor government failed to maintain them and that is why we introduced the Electricity Maintenance Guarantee late last year. It has already supported more than \$400 million in investment into maintenance of our government owned generators in 2024-25. However, a decade of Labor failing to invest in these generating assets will not be fixed overnight. We have again seen this last month that this underinvestment leads to serious incidents and unplanned outages. The serious incident at Callide C3 highlights the work that still needs to be undertaken across our government owned generators and our government owned corporations.

In addition to the Workplace Health and Safety Queensland investigation, CS Energy is currently undertaking two formal investigations to identify the underlying causes. I am advised by CS Energy that

the C3 unit is due back online by 30 May and investigations are ongoing. Once the seriousness of the incident had been disclosed by CS Energy the government took action. We introduced the obligation for government owned generators to disclose outages in real time. If Ergon and Energex can disclose outages in real time then our government owned generators can too. I table the 'Communication protocol for unplanned outages of electricity generation units', together with letters to each of the government owned generators—CS Energy, Stanwell and CleanCo—delivered earlier this month.

Tabled paper: Bundle of letters from the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership, Hon. David Janetzki and the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training, Hon. Ros Bates, regarding the Communication Protocol for Unplanned Outages in Electricity Generation Units [385](#).

We also confirmed that a review into government owned corporations will be completed as part of the five-year Energy Roadmap. The \$1.4 billion rollout of the government's Electricity Maintenance Guarantee will continue and potential additional investments will be considered during the roadmap process. Queensland needs our government owned corporations performing at full capacity to deliver this roadmap. There is much work to do. As made clear by the board of CS Energy, the 'deep-seated cultural problems' as contained in the Brady report still remain and they are 'determined to fix' them.

I am looking forward to working with all government owned corporations as we improve culture and performance, progress our Energy Roadmap and save projects that the former Labor government simply would have never delivered. We will save CopperString through leveraging QIC's infrastructure expertise and its ability to attract private sector investment, together with Powerlink's transmission experience. QIC will prioritise the Eastern Link with Hughenden at its heart and will undertake a full analysis of options to deliver the best economic value for the Western Link. CopperString should not cost \$13.9 billion, and we are determined to see the communities of North Queensland and North-West Queensland flourish through unlocking the economic opportunities the CopperString project will bring—all the way from Townsville to Mount Isa.

The work the government undertakes this year on the five-year Energy Roadmap is important. We are committed to working with our government owned corporations and the private sector as we deliver what we promised—affordable, reliable and sustainable electricity for Queensland.