



Speech By  
**Hon. David Janetzki**

**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH**

---


Record of Proceedings, 9 December 2025

## **ENERGY ROADMAP AMENDMENT BILL**

## **GREENHOUSE GAS STORAGE AMENDMENT BILL**

Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill resumed from 16 October (see p. 3178) and Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment Bill resumed from 26 August (see p. 2367).

### **Second Reading (Cognate Debate)**

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (8.02 pm): I move—

That the bills be now read a second time.

I would like to thank the members of the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee, led by the member for Coomera, for their consideration of the Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill 2025. I would also like to acknowledge the work of the members for Caloundra and Maryborough during this detailed consideration process. The Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill facilitates delivery of the Crisafulli government's plan for affordable, reliable and sustainable energy for Queenslanders. It amends the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Act 2024 which will be renamed the Energy (Infrastructure Facilitation) Act 2025, ensuring legislative settings align with the Energy Roadmap and facilitate private sector investment and new energy generation.

The bill delivers the government's election commitment to repeal the former government's unrealistic renewable energy targets. Removing these targets enables a pragmatic approach to Queensland's evolving energy mix. Renewable energy remains central to the road map with more than 4.7 gig of wind and solar projects under consideration or financially committed, complementing 4.2 gig of operational capacity as at June 2025.

The bill strengthens public ownership provisions, confirming the state will retain 100 per cent ownership of existing operational generation assets, transmission, distribution and deep storage infrastructure. These enduring commitments are backed by clear reporting requirements and supported by our \$1.6 billion Electricity Maintenance Guarantee to improve what we have while we build what we need for the future. To enhance flexibility and efficiency, the bill introduces the Energy System Outlook, replacing prescriptive planning requirements with a dynamic framework that identifies strategic infrastructure priorities and adapts to system and consumer needs. It also streamlines governance by repealing advisory bodies, the Energy Industry Council, the Queensland Energy System Advisory Board and the Renewable Energy Jobs Advocate, reducing administrative costs while enabling consultation through mechanisms like the new energy round table. Approximately 113 participants from around 89 different organisations have been engaged, representing a broad spectrum of the energy industry.

The bill renames renewable energy zones as regional energy hubs, putting economics and engineering above ideology and creating a more adaptable framework for coordinated transmission investment. It enhances the priority transmission investment framework, the PTI, ensuring least cost delivery of critical projects such as Powerlink's Gladstone project and removes the 2035 sunset clause to provide market and investor certainty. Crucially, the bill establishes a legislative framework for the CopperString project, empowering QIC to deliver this transformational project connecting the North West Minerals Province to the national electricity grid. CopperString will unlock economic opportunities across North and North-West Queensland, enable new low-cost generation and support resource industry development.

Finally, the bill retains the Job Security Guarantee and its \$150 million fund. While the Energy Roadmap resets indicative coal operating timeframes, the Job Security Guarantee remains an important framework to support workers in the industry and provide confidence to coal communities that they are respected and supported. By simplifying legislation, maintaining public ownership and enabling strategic investment, this bill secures Queensland's energy future while fostering regional growth and private sector participation.

The Energy Roadmap resets operating timeframes for state owned coal assets to technical lives with options to further extend into the future if needed. That will deliver nearly \$26 billion less in system costs over the next decade. The former Labor government's decision to close coal units by 2035, regardless of system needs and value for Queensland taxpayers, has been officially abolished. Ultimately, that position was unrealistic, captured by ideology and fundamentally dishonest. State owned coal assets will play a critical role in Queensland's energy system until at least 2046, meaning coal will be part of the state's generation mix for decades. That is great news for Queensland jobs in regional communities. The provisions in this bill support our state owned coal generators by introducing 100 per cent ownership of Queensland's existing publicly owned generation assets that are operational at the time the amendments commence. Only the LNP is legislating to keep our state owned coal plants in public hands.

Renewable energy accounted for 37.3 per cent of Queensland's National Electricity Market connected grid generation in October this year, up from 34.9 per cent when we took office. Right now there are 12 large-scale generation projects under construction or financially committed, including six solar farms and six wind farms. These include major projects like MacIntyre and Wambo, which have already begun generating while ramping up to full capacity. Alongside these generation projects Queensland is powering ahead with investment in critical energy storage solutions. We see this in the 10 storage projects which are committed in our state, including nine battery installations and the Kidston pumped hydro project.

These projects mean jobs and opportunities in regional Queensland. Committed solar and wind projects are creating up to 3½ thousand peak construction jobs in our state and battery projects add more than 1,000 more. That means thousands of Queenslanders are working today to build the energy system of tomorrow. Beyond the shovels in the ground as we speak, the investment pipeline is even stronger. We have 62 generation projects with development approval alongside 40 storage projects approved, plus many more at the feasibility stage. This is a wave of private sector investment ready to roll into our state, totalling in the billions of dollars that are flowing into regional communities.

On top of these projects being built or in the investment pipeline, Queensland already has 79 renewable energy projects operating. They provide Queenslanders with energy from wind, solar, bioenergy and hydro sources. There are also 11 large-scale storage projects online, including three batteries owned by Stanwell and CS Energy, and the Wivenhoe pumped hydro project, which is one of Queensland's greatest energy assets, opened by the former Bjelke-Petersen government 41 years ago.

We know that Queensland is blessed with a world-leading solar resource and Queenslanders are making the most of that abundant sunshine from which our state's moniker is derived. As of October this year, over 908,000 rooftop solar systems have been installed in homes and small businesses across the state. That means nearly 40 per cent of roofs in Queensland have solar panels. The leading postcodes are in our regions and our outer suburbs. Bundaberg, Mackay and Toowoomba lead, followed by Hervey Bay, Caloundra and Beenleigh. While we welcome households making that cost-saving investment, the increased flow of rooftop solar does create complexities in our increasingly dynamic system, with electricity coming into the grid during the day. This electricity needs to be used and stored to maintain a stable system and for energy to be deployed when it is most needed, at times of peak demand. That is why our Energy Roadmap looks to storage as a critical cornerstone of our state's present and future energy mix, together with the community batteries that we are seeing opening up across Queensland and operated by Energy Queensland.

As part of our Energy Roadmap, Queensland is investing in battery storage on a scale never seen before. Recently I had the pleasure of visiting Stanwell Power Station, where 324 Tesla megapacks had already been delivered. We saw the Energy Roadmap lived out in real life, improving what we have—coal-fired generators—while we build what we need for the future. Those 324 Tesla megapacks are now being hooked up. That 300-megawatt system shows us the Energy Roadmap in action. The battery at Stanwell will provide up to four hours of firming capacity and is an important part of Stanwell's 2.8-gigawatt-hour storage portfolio. Alongside that we see Quinbrook's world-first eight-hour EnerQB battery at Stanwell, unlocking storage that can absorb an entire day's solar generation and deliver continuous supply during peak demand.

At the same time, our rollout of local network connected batteries is supporting communities across Queensland. Eighteen batteries are already energised and 12 more are under construction, including recent completions in Torrington and Emerald, which I had the pleasure of visiting recently. These four-megawatt, eight-megawatt-hour units capture excess rooftop solar and stabilise the grid in communities with high rooftop solar penetration. These batteries can be rolled out quickly and are helping us to harness the benefits of the world's highest uptake of rooftop solar while putting downward pressure on prices. The Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill is about making sure this momentum continues. By prioritising critical infrastructure and creating a clear investment framework, we will turn this investment pipeline into projects and jobs and, more importantly, affordable, reliable and sustainable power for Queensland households and businesses.

I would like to thank all 41 Queenslanders and stakeholders who took the time to make a submission on the bill to the committee, including those stakeholders who appeared at the committee's public hearing. Regarding the submissions, there are a number of points of clarification that I would like to make before members start their contributions on the bill. Firstly, the ETU submission listed Callide C, Gladstone and Millmerran as being extended or otherwise affected by the Energy Roadmap. I note that those plants are either privately owned or joint ventures and their closure dates are decisions for their owners and not the Queensland government or Queensland government owned corporations. Page 30 of the Energy Roadmap notes that 'Operating decisions for Callide C, Millmerran and Gladstone will be made by their respective owners'.

I note the ETU's criticism of the Crisafulli government's \$1.6 billion Electricity Maintenance Guarantee, arguing it does not account for refurbishment beyond the forward estimates. The \$1.6 billion covers every overhaul required within the current four-year forward estimates because that is how budgets work. A four-year budget is not a 10-year maintenance cycle and the guarantee is ongoing. It will continue to fund maintenance in future budgets as required. When attempting to model costs across all Queensland coal generators, public and private, technical lifespans and the recognition of privately owned power stations must be factored into estimates.

The ETU also raised concerns about public ownership and specifically the public ownership of CopperString. As coal continues to underpin Queensland's energy system into the future and with an increasing system reliance on gas, I have been clear that the government has an enduring commitment to 100 per cent public ownership of existing operational generation while ensuring state investment into those assets continues through the Electricity Maintenance Guarantee. The bill crystallises this public ownership commitment and provides certainty to all stakeholders, industry investors, GOCs and the community. One hundred per cent public ownership commitments for transmission, distribution and deep storage remain enshrined in the legislation.

The Energy Roadmap clearly states that CopperString will be delivered by QIC, a government owned corporation. Clause 58 in this bill gives the QIC the authority to deliver the project while allowing partnerships to accelerate construction. Partnering with industry means building our infrastructure faster and smarter, delivering value for Queensland taxpayers. CopperString is central to our Energy Roadmap because it connects the North West Minerals Province to the National Electricity Market sooner, unlocking renewable energy and resource development opportunities for Queenslanders.

As I mentioned in question time this morning, it is clear that we have seen a vote of confidence in the Energy Roadmap and the \$200 million North West Energy Fund that has been activated. The Eva Copper project produces 60,000 tonnes of copper every year and there is a \$2.3 billion investment in Eva Copper by Harmony Gold. These investments in the extraordinary critical minerals in the North West Minerals Province are worth half a trillion dollars. It is that next-generation wave of mineral resources that will power our state's future and power the world's economy. We know of the opportunities that are available to Queensland mining and resources.

We also know the importance of Hughenden, which is at the heart of CopperString. We are seeing investment go into the Hughenden substation and work is being done on renewable projects from Hughenden east. There are billions of dollars worth of renewables projects between Hughenden and Townsville.

**Mrs Poole:** Hear, hear!

**Mr JANETZKI:** I take the interjection from the member for Mundingburra. I have often said that the renewables and, in particular, the wind east of Hughenden are the best in the country, and potentially the wind is some of the best in the world as it blows in the evening. We know of the renewables opportunities along the CopperString transmission line from Hughenden to Townsville, which is a key reason CopperString is so important.

I note the additional savings we already identified when I delivered the Energy Roadmap. Those opposite had let CopperString blow out. It started at \$1.8 billion, went to \$5 billion, then to \$6.2 billion and then to \$13.9 billion once all of the augmentation and additions were added. Those opposite lost control of the cost of CopperString. When I delivered the Energy Roadmap, I made it clear at the very beginning that we would save \$2.1 billion in costs just by bringing back the kV from 500 to 330 so that the additional costs that could be saved would be delivered sooner. Under those opposite, CopperString was not going to be delivered. It would not have been delivered under those opposite. I repeat: it would not have been delivered under those opposite. We are unpacking the renewable investments to get it built sooner and get that renewable energy to market sooner.

Queensland's renewable share has grown over the past year, powered by private sector investment and new projects coming online. Removing legislated targets does not mean less renewables, as I have already explained; it means a market-driven approach focused on getting the right projects built, not seeking out political headlines. Again, as I talked about today in the House, we know what happens when those opposite get their hands on political headlines. I will come to it later in my contribution, but it really is a test for those opposite. Will they double down on Pioneer-Burdekin? At the moment it appears that they will—the \$36.8 billion project, the fairytale underpinning the Energy and Jobs Plan. The expose in the *Australian* makes it abundantly clear. There are 37 pictures in the Energy and Jobs Plan—camp fires and fairy lights—seriously. That is—

**Mr O'Connor:** Some sort of press release.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I take the interjection from the member for Bonney. As reported in the *Australian*, it was not enough of an announcement to say 'up to five gig at this project'; they had to say 'five gig'. That was the media announcement. That is what they went for. That is the fairytale. That is how government was undertaken by those opposite. That is the disrespect that those opposite undertook. That is their record. That is their legacy. I have not even talked about Borumba, and I will not get time to talk about Borumba, but, again, when we came to government, that project had blown out from \$14 billion to \$18 billion. The independent report revealed the most shocking aspect of that is that there was a less than one per cent chance of any energy being delivered in the timeframe that they had predicted. There was a less than one per cent chance of any energy being online by 2030, let alone Pioneer-Burdekin.

**Mr O'Connor:** They like those odds.

**Mr JANETZKI:** Yes, they are Labor Party odds if ever I have heard them. There was a less than one per cent chance at Borumba, but they had also forecast first energy at Pioneer-Burdekin by 2032. We know what that really was, from the *Australian* again on the weekend: it was a pipedream, a fantasy, a hoax, but that was the basis of their entire Energy and Jobs Plan. They showed again their ineptitude when they did not even know today—they were asking questions of the gas peaker at Kogan—they were that clueless as to their own Energy and Jobs Plan that they did not recognise it was in there. It was in their own Energy and Jobs Plan.

**Mr Head:** Oops! We're saving it and delivering.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I take the interjection from the member for Callide. It is another project we are having to come in and save and deliver, because this state needs more gas generation to firm up renewables and they are adding increasing generation to the system. It is another project that we are going to save, and I know the member for Callide is very excited about that.

We keep our government election commitments, and that has been reflected now in the renewable energy targets. We are focused on building projects that deliver, not chasing political headlines like those opposite. Investors can be confident that the Crisafulli government will stand by its election commitment, including net zero by 2050.

I thank the Services Union for supporting 'Queensland's ambition to lead the nation in renewable energy, regional investment and workforce development' in their submission. We share their commitment to a skilled and stable workforce. Let's be clear: repealing advisory bodies does not weaken workforce planning. It removes layers of process and bureaucracy that slow delivery and add cost. The best and fastest way to secure jobs is to build and secure energy projects, not create more committees. This bill replaces ideology with action on investor certainty and infrastructure delivery.

Many of Queensland's energy stakeholders have made submissions which strongly endorse the pragmatic and practical reforms contained in the Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill 2025. The Queensland Farmers' Federation submission supports a more flexible approach to achieving net zero by 2025, recognising that predictable and cost-conscious policy is essential for agricultural competitiveness and on-farm innovation.

Local governments share this optimism. My neighbouring council—Smithy and the Western Downs—welcomes the bill's objective to deliver cost-effective, safe, secure and reliable energy. For a region with a strong agricultural and manufacturing base, rising energy costs have been a major challenge. Western Downs stated, 'By working together, significant economic opportunities can be unlocked,' and we look forward to continued work in this region to unlock significant economic opportunities and community benefits for locals in the Western Downs region.

The North West Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils describes CopperString as a game changer for connecting renewable energy to the National Electricity Market and supporting critical minerals like copper, vanadium and cobalt. They commend our expanded \$50 million community benefits fund, which will deliver housing, community infrastructure and workforce development across the CopperString project corridor.

Industry groups are equally supportive. The Queensland Resources Council welcomes the Energy Roadmap's flexible investment framework, while QREC backs the public ownership retention approach, alongside private capital attraction, applauding the \$400 million Queensland Energy Investment Fund and the new QIC Investor Gateway. In the public hearing on 29 October, QREC's spokesperson welcomed constructive elements of the bill and the Energy Roadmap, being the inclusion of emissions reduction within the strategic infrastructure objectives, the continued delivery of the CopperString transmission project and the creation of regional energy hubs, which they noted provided a framework to modernise Queensland's energy system. Renewable energy developer Windlab as well as Coexistence Queensland strongly support the shift to regional energy hubs, citing streamlined delivery, improved flexibility and better regional engagement.

I turn briefly to the dissenting report from those opposite. Labor's dissenting report made a number of outrageous claims, all of which prove they have learned nothing in their year in opposition and, if let back onto the Treasury benches, would undoubtedly pursue the same undeliverable and ideological approach that we saw under the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, as they have again demonstrated repeatedly today in the House.

Regarding Labor's attempts to link repealing renewable energy targets with higher power prices, the truth is—and the modelling in the Energy Roadmap is clear—that there is \$1,035 avoided costs through this system plan as compared to those opposite. That is \$1,035 per household per year for the next 10 years. That is avoided costs than it otherwise would have been under Labor's plan. There it is in black and white. As I have stated, we have 12 large-scale renewable generation projects under construction or financially committed, 10 storage projects, 62 generation projects and 40 storage projects approved, with many more at the feasibility stage.

I referred to this in question time, but I am going to repeat it for those opposite: regarding their opposition to CS Energy's landmark deal with APA to develop the Brigalow gas peaker, this asset does not yet exist, yet Labor seem to be under the impression that ownership of this asset has been transferred. It does not exist. Brigalow is a new project—new generation—private sector investment partnering with government to deliver more generation as the roadmap has promised. APA Group has announced a joint development agreement with CS Energy to deliver the proposed Brigalow Peaking Power Plant. Labor proposed the same, with the QEJP proposing to partner with Iberdrola for a gas peaking station at Kogan Creek, and the former government, I also note, was talking about constructing Wambo Wind Farm, which is 50 per cent owned by Cubico and Stanwell.

With regard to Labor's concerns about investor confidence, the roadmap includes a clear decision matrix, based on system need, asset integrity and economic viability—far more transparent than the arbitrary dates that those opposite had adopted. Their approach was that all coal closures would be done by 2035.

Labor also raised concerns with coal closure dates and certainty for coal workers. The audacity of Labor to raise these issues is laughable because of their arbitrary coal closure dates. What we have done on this side of the House is backed in the \$150 million job guarantee and we have saved jobs. We respect our regional communities. We do not treat them with arbitrary closure dates of their assets; we respect them. We have saved coal jobs—around Stanwell, around Tarong, around Callide, towns like Biloela, Kingaroy, Blackbutt, Yarraman, Rockhampton, Stanwell—all these regional and rural towns. It is not only the workers who have security but also the small businesses. I will never forget seeing an ABC story, I think it was, on the bakery in Biloela and listening to the small and family

businesses that depend on these generators. We have given that certainty as coal will run for decades in Queensland. This plan now supports regional communities. Labor's Energy and Jobs Plan left regional communities behind. That is the truth. Our Electricity Maintenance Guarantee will preserve those assets.

With regard to Labor's claims about consultation, we delivered targeted workshops and extensive stakeholder engagements with 113 participants from 89 organisations. That is consultation. Their claims that Powerlink were not consulted show that they are not paying attention. They are lazy. They are not paying attention. It has been made clear in the Energy Roadmap and I said it on the day: Powerlink led the modelling, so they have been intimately involved. That was noted on page 24 of the Energy Roadmap.

This bill also deals with the announcement by the Deputy Premier regarding repealing the Forest Wind Farm Development Act 2020, ending years of uncertainty for the Wide Bay community. That act was introduced by the former Labor government to fast-track a project in state forests between Gympie, Maryborough and the Fraser Coast without any community consultation or appeal rights. The project has since collapsed, losing landholder support and its venture partner, leaving no viable pathway forward. Repealing this act delivers permanent certainty for local communities and landholders and removes a flawed special-purpose law designed to override community voices.

Furthermore, this bill is being debated in cognate with the Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment Bill 2025. My colleague the Minister for Natural Resources will provide further details on the bill and the committee process, but it responds to Queensland's 2024 ban on greenhouse gas storage in the Great Artesian Basin. That ban terminated CTSCo's exploration permit, leaving the company responsible for decommissioning its wells. CTSCo proposed converting these wells into water supply bores for landholders, providing long-term water access, avoiding the cost of drilling new bores and creating a positive legacy. The bill allows CTSCo to either plug and abandon wells or convert and transfer them under strict technical standards, streamlining approvals and minimising long-term liability for the state.

Let me finish with a couple of comments and a couple of challenges for those opposite. They have a choice. There is a clear contrast between their hoax, their hype, their announcement-driven plan and a plan driven by pragmatism, modelling and a calm and methodical approach. Those opposite have to make a clear choice over the next day. Will they double down on the \$36.8 billion Pioneer-Burdekin project that underpinned their Energy and Jobs Plan? Let's also hear from those opposite as to whether they still support tens of millions of dollars being funnelled to 'Twiggy' for hydrogen technology that did not exist. Is that the kind of investment they wanted to see? Will they back in their plan, which delivers higher power prices, or will they support us and the \$1,035 of savings per year for households for the next 10 years? That is their choice, and it is now their turn to show what they believe in.