




Speech By
Hon. David Janetzki

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

Record of Proceedings, 9 December 2025

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro Project

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (2.52 pm): I must reply in some respects to the member for Waterford's contribution, because households are doing it tough and this government is dedicated to helping them in every way possible. I need to reflect briefly on the budget's cost-of-living relief: \$8.5 billion in concessions—the largest ever contribution to cost-of-living relief; Back to School Boost; Play On! vouchers that were permanently funded; and the Crisafulli government's permanent 50-cent fares.

Before I move on, the member for Waterford wants to contrast. Our cost-of-living relief is permanent. Do you remember 50-cent fares, Mr Deputy Speaker? They spent more on advertising the budget papers in 2024 than they did on putting it in the budget. We have permanently funded it. They talk about 20 per cent off car rego. In 2024 they spent four times more in advertising the budget papers than they did on putting that discount in the budget. Our cost-of-living relief is targeted, timely, recurrent and responsible. Most of all, Mr Deputy Speaker, it is permanent. The Energy Roadmap clearly laid out modelling that showed avoided costs to Queensland households of \$1,035 every year for the next 10 years—a lower system cost to Queensland taxpayers.

One of the first actions of this government was the public release of the detailed analytical report into Labor's Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro energy storage project. The centrepiece of the former government's Energy and Jobs Plan was supposed to be the world's biggest pumped hydro program. Do you remember the battery of the north? We got that all the time from those opposite. The report, which was kept hidden by those opposite, was finally released and it revealed that Pioneer-Burdekin was all a hoax. It went from \$7 billion to \$12 billion to \$36.8 billion. It was not financially or environmentally possible and the community was never consulted. All of those details were kept from the Queensland people.

On the weekend we saw an investigation by the *Australian* newspaper. It has uncovered more concerning details about the level of deception contained in the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan which was underpinned by the Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro project and Borumba. What did this report say? I started highlighting some of the key sections, but then it turned into a colouring-in exercise because there is so much in this report those opposite must answer. The article said that it raises questions about the plans and timelines and whether its release was driven more by politics than readiness. Let's look a little bit further.

Fourteen former cabinet ministers were at the CEDA lunch in 2022 when the former premier announced it. One of them—and most of them are still over there—as was reported, the minister 'who would not be named', called it out and said it was all about the announcement rather than the delivery of the project.

A government member: Who was it? I reckon it was the member for Woodridge.

Mr JANETZKI: I reckon it might have been the member for Woodridge; I reckon he was there. Maybe it was the member for Springwood. Maybe the member for Springwood has been talking to the *Australian*, 'the minister who would not be named'. They are all keen to throw former premier Palaszczuk under the bus and they are close political confidantes of the former premier. I know that the former deputy premier was a close political confidante of the former premier. As the former deputy premier I would expect that he would be very close to the then premier.

Let's look at the record. What was the former deputy premier saying in August last year? Then premier Miles said, 'Our commitment to the Pioneer-Burdekin project is rock solid.' What else did the member for Murrumba say 18 months ago? This takes on a very disconcerting air when you consider the headlines and reports from the weekend. He said that every drill and borehole brought benefits to the community that would continue for decades to come. Look at the reports in the *Australian*: 'Toxic politics: did premier's "undercooked" fix contaminate valley?' The member for Murrumba said that every drill and borehole brought benefits to the community. They have questions to answer.

(Time expired)