



Speech By
Glen Kelly


MEMBER FOR MIRANI

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ENERGY ROADMAP AMENDMENT BILL

GREENHOUSE GAS STORAGE AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

 **Mr G KELLY** (Mirani—LNP) (7.42 pm): It is amazing that I stand here tonight to speak on two important bills before the House—the Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment Bill and the Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill. The Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment Bill is a straightforward, commonsense reform. It enables greenhouse gas wells on EPQ10 to be converted into water bores and handed directly back to landholders who work that land. Instead of being tied up in carbon storage schemes, these bores will now help improve water security, lift agricultural productivity and strengthen farm resilience right across these properties. This bill flows directly from the Crisafulli government's decision to ban carbon storage in Queensland's section of the Great Artesian Basin. It also shows what this government stands for—backing agriculture and supporting the people who feed and fuel our state.

This brings me to the main part of today's debate—the Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill. This bill delivers the framework for the Energy Roadmap, which is a practical and financially responsible plan that protects power prices, keeps the lights on and supports a sensible transition, not a reckless one. Under the road map, we reduce energy system costs for taxpayers by \$26 billion by 2035, we prevent Queensland households paying over \$1,000 more every year under Labor's approach, and we open the door to sensible private investment in renewables and storage.

Reliability matters. Industry relies on it, as do households, and this road map delivers both stability for today and the planning for tomorrow. I know this might be unpopular to some people in some circles, but it is simple and it is the truth: coal-fired power keeps the lights on in Queensland. Coal provides the baseload stability that our hospitals, manufacturers and families rely on. Under this road map, coal will continue to play a role for us as long as it is needed because reliability is not negotiable. In my own electorate at Stanwell Power Station where around 240 Queenslanders earn their living, our plan will keep those jobs going. We are investing in proper maintenance after years of neglect that contributed to disasters like the Callide explosion. The previous government took no responsibility as to what happened there, but you have to own it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Furner): Member for Mirani, I will have you address your comments through the chair, thank you.

Mr G KELLY: By responsibly including gas, we ensure that when the sun does not shine and the wind does not blow Queensland still has power.

Before we look forward, we must acknowledge the damage caused by Labor's reckless approach in the past. Labor's Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro scheme was more than a policy mistake; it was a betrayal of the communities placed directly under threat. It was never planned properly, never practical, never approved and it destroyed confidence right across the Pioneer Valley and Eungella, let alone the

people of regional Queensland who were thinking, 'What's next for us?' Family farms were put at risk, neighbours were divided and families lost sleep wondering if everything they worked for could be drowned by a dam that was never going to be built. The Palaszczuk government decided to make these decisions that would impact on the people of the Pioneer Valley, and where is Palaszczuk now? There are members on that side of the House who are still here. Someone has to own it, and they are right there.

Locals are still dealing with the fallout, including uncertainty around property values and the loss of financial stability. Many families have had no choice but to put their plans and their futures on hold while they continue cleaning up a mess they did not create. Even now families are asking me if the school in Eungella might close. The community hall struggles because so many people have left the town. They were driven out by a fear of uncertainty, yet Labor still refuses to rule out bringing that nightmare back. Let me say clearly: the Eungella State School will stay open. This government is restoring confidence, rebuilding trust and investing into the Pioneer Valley—that is so important when it comes to the people in those communities—not tearing it apart just for a headline, as we saw happen under the previous government.

Queensland deserves a plan that is achievable, affordable and reliable. The Energy Roadmap is exactly what Queensland needs. It is so important that common sense is being provided with the LNP Energy Roadmap. We are improving what we have while building what we need, and we are doing it the Queensland way—the right way—through the LNP government.