




Speech By
Lance McCallum

MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Nuclear Energy

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (2.25 pm): Alarm bells went off through Queensland's energy sector yesterday when the Treasurer and energy minister were asked a very simple and clear question in question time: whether he would stand against Peter Dutton's nuclear plan. In his reply, he said that it was a question that was irrelevant to Queensland. He said that it was a decision for Canberra, notwithstanding the fact that Dutton's plan is to build two nuclear reactors in Queensland, one at Callide and the other at Tarong, which are currently state owned power stations. Has there ever been a more egregious case of a minister who is not across his brief? This is the minister who is tasked with looking after our energy system. This is one of the two ministers who is a shareholding minister in the companies that own the power stations that Peter Dutton wants to turn into nuclear reactors, and yesterday in his answer he said, 'It's not relevant to Queensland. That's a decision for Canberra.'

It is entirely relevant for the state of Queensland that, in a mere few weeks, we might have a federal government that wants to build two nuclear reactors in our state. No wonder that under the LNP Crisafulli government Queensland is currently a state without an energy plan, a state that is suffering from rising bills and large cuts to energy projects. We saw the disinterest from this government as recently as last Monday. I was at the Townsville Green Energy Forum, an annual event where the Townsville community comes together to talk about investment, job creation and the opportunities that come with a clean energy transition. I was very proud to be there on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition because Labor cares about jobs and investment in clean energy.

Mr Speaker, I will tell you whom I did not see there: I did not see a minister from the government. They could not be bothered turning up. I did not see one of the new three MPs from the city of Townsville—the city that just voted them in. They could not be bothered to turn up for jobs and investment in their own town. It is absolutely disgraceful. That community is worried about cuts and downsizing to critical projects like CopperString. We have seen the cuts; there are more coming. We are a state that is adrift when it comes to energy under the LNP.