




Speech By
Lance McCallum

MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA

Record of Proceedings, 29 April 2025

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (2.37 pm): The Premier and the LNP promised Queenslanders that they would govern with integrity and transparency and that there would be ministerial accountability. Like so many of the promises that have been given by this LNP government, they were hollow words that meant nothing because all that we have got when it comes to the explosion at Callide Power Station's C3 unit is cover-ups, blow-ups, deflection of blame and avoidance of any responsibility or accountability.

The energy minister was briefed on the explosion on the same day that it occurred, according to the information that has been provided to the opposition. However, the energy minister failed to mention it at the time as well as at a speech on 8 April at the Queensland Energy Club. Worse still, at this speech in front of the energy industry here in Queensland, the energy minister not only failed to mention the explosion but deliberately did not mention it when in that speech he spoke about the Callide Power Station. This was an absolute cover-up. We know that photos were sent to the Treasurer's office and we know that media statements were sent to the Treasurer's office, yet this Treasurer and energy minister has continued to sidestep questions. He actively avoided telling the Queensland public what he knew and when he knew it, including when he notified the Premier about the explosion at Callide C3.

What we have seen from this government is deflection and blame-shifting, and there have been many who have been thrown under the cover-up bus that was driven out of Callide under the LNP. We have seen the CEO of CS Energy lose their job. We have seen two urgent board meetings that were called in the wake of the explosion—actually, let me be more specific—in the wake of the revelations that the explosion had been covered up. There was a first board meeting on 13 April where the plant manager at CS Energy lost their job. Then there was another extraordinary board meeting on 16 April when the board itself took the blame for the explosion.

This cover-up bus, it turns out, is being driven by none other than former deputy premier, Jeff Seeney, who is on the CS Energy board. Probably most extraordinary about the statement that the board issued is that it cites inadequate reporting of serious issues to senior management, the board and the relevant ministers. Take a moment to consider that. They are blaming the workers at the power station—not the senior management, not the board, not the minister, but the actual workers who work at the power station. That is who they are throwing under the bus. That is what we can expect from this LNP government.

Mr Head: The CEO and the general manager are senior management. He is calling the CEO and the general manager 'the workers'.

Mr McCALLUM: I can hear a low, incomprehensible rumble, so that is probably the member for Callide trying to interject, the member who has the very power station that exploded in his electorate and has not done a thing about it—

Mr Head interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Member for Callide, you have had a good go.

Mr McCALLUM:—which is absolutely indicative of this government. It is absolutely disgraceful! So what we have here is an energy minister who refuses to answer questions. He has refused to answer what advice he gave CS Energy about releasing those draft media statements in relation to the explosion. He has refused to answer or reveal any role that he had in the sackings at CS Energy. He has refused to answer today when his office received photos of the explosion. Under the LNP, power prices are going up, while our power stations are blowing up.