



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA

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PRIVATE MEMBER STATEMENT

Energy Queensland Ltd, Yurika Division; Drugs Testing

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (2.06 pm): Since 2017 the Yurika subsidiary of EQL has been central to grasping the opportunities of Queensland's transition to clean energy. I can reveal to the parliament today that under the Crisafulli LNP government the Yurika division of EQL has been dissolved. It has been cut up under this LNP government. There are over 500 workers affected by the Yurika decision. We are talking about frontline energy workers like sparkies, transmission linesmen, technicians and cable joiners—the skilled workers this state needs for its energy future. Their jobs and security now have an enormous question mark over them. I want to read from some correspondence from the office of the CEO that has gone to these workers. It states—

I acknowledge that times of change and uncertainty can be challenging, so please remember that there are a number of avenues available for you to talk to someone: your colleagues, counselling, our employee assistance program and confidential 24/7 support.

These 500 skilled workers are now in a position where they need to seek support about their future. Why? Because the Crisafulli government—I am very glad the energy minister is here in the House—has made a decision to rationalise operations and have the core functions of Yurika taken back into Energy Queensland.

This government cannot stop cutting. Just like the workers in Yurika, we have seen workers at pill testing sites across Queensland in the crosshairs of this government. We know that the Deputy Premier has an ideological opposition to pill testing, just like the government's ideological opposition to renewables. We have seen media reports that say there will be amendments brought into this House which will ban pill testing in Queensland. Where are those amendments? Why is this government hiding its amendments to ban lifesaving medical treatment from the people of Queensland? When a government stoops to these lows, you know they have already lost the argument.