



Speech By **Lance McCallum**

MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA

Record of Proceedings, 9 December 2025

MOTION

Cognate Debate; Declared Urgent; Allocation of Time Limit Order; Order of Business

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (3.39 pm): What a sad day for democracy under the LNP government, who waltz in here today and with this motion are trashing every single fundamental tenet of the democratic process that occurs here in this House. They come in here and treat this parliament as their plaything. This is a unicameral parliament, without any upper house. They come in here and crunch through the numbers to silence members in this House from properly debating important laws—not one, not two, not three but four laws. It is an absolute disgrace.

Members are elected to this place to speak on behalf of their constituents. There are 93 electorates. I acknowledge and welcome the new member for Hinchinbrook. I am full of sorrow for him that he comes here on his first day to see his own government remove his right to speak on four bills. Do not tell me that the Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill is not an important bill for the people of Hinchinbrook or any of the other 92 electorates that are represented in this House. On his first day he is gagged by the boss, the member for Broadwater, and the member for Kawana. Every single member who has been elected to this place has a right to speak in relation to the matters that are before this House, whether it is legislation, a motion or a committee report. What we are seeing here today is one of the most egregious and ignorant fettering of the rights of every single member in this place.

The process for the Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill has been truncated. The committee report was rushed. Only four of 41 submitters were given the opportunity to appear before the committee. This government—this mob—has form for shutting down debate, for shutting down proper, robust examination and accountability of the Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill. Why do members think they are now compressing the entire consideration of the Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill into less than 24 hours—around 4½ hours of debate? They want to truncate debate on it because the government is absolutely terrified of the divisions that exist within their caucus around energy. That is why they have come in here with a guillotine motion. We examined at the last sittings the enormous divisions that exist within the LNP caucus. The member for Maryborough does not believe in net zero. He is not going to get to speak on it today.

There are many stakeholders in the energy industry. There were many submitters who wanted to have their views heard during the committee process and were not able to. A lot of those stakeholders are relying on the debate of the legislation for an opportunity for their views to be put on the record of this House, to be properly taken into consideration by the minister and by executive government. All of this has been cut by this motion. There is hardly a more pressing issue than the future of the energy system here in Queensland. There is hardly a more pressing issue than the cost of energy in every single one of the 93 electorates. This is the government's signature energy plan and the bill that will enact that.

Mr HUNT: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I think the member is straying into pre-empting debate.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order, member for Logan! You are warned under the standing orders. I do not need your assistance or you interrogating the member for Nicklin on his feet as he is making a point of order. Member for Nicklin, was your point of order relevance?

Mr HUNT: No, it was pre-empting debate on the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Anticipation of debate. Thank you, member for Nicklin. I have been listening carefully. Member for Bundamba, please be cautious about anticipating debate. I think you have been going okay, but continue.

Mr McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker; I appreciate your guidance. I have been very careful to talk broadly about the cost of living and about power prices and how that is important for every single community that is represented in this House. It is absolutely disgraceful that members of this House will not have an opportunity to talk about the government's bill that will shape energy prices here in Queensland.

The bills that are the subject of this motion are important and the issues that are contained within them should be fully ventilated, whether it is the Health Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 3), which will be cut by eight o'clock tonight, or the Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill, which is a cognate debate with the Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment Bill. It is not just one bill getting crunched through in 4½ hours tomorrow night; it is actually two. Then, of course, there is the defamation bill.

There is a very disturbing pattern of behaviour from this government. We have seen the secrecy; we have seen the lack of transparency. What we are now seeing time and time again is the government's willingness and propensity to come in here and gag proper, robust parliamentary debate on bills. This is an absolute disgrace. I urge every single member of the House to think carefully about whether or not they are prepared to support a motion that is going to take away their right to contribute to bills that are being debated on behalf of their community in relation to these matters. The record will show for every single member, when it comes to voting on this motion, whether or not they voted to silence their community. If they vote for this motion they are voting for their community to be silenced. I am very glad that that will be on the record.