



Speech By
Hon. Leanne Linard


MEMBER FOR NUDGEES

Record of Proceedings, 10 December 2025

ENERGY ROADMAP AMENDMENT BILL

GREENHOUSE GAS STORAGE AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (5.07 pm): Queenslanders want a clear, ambitious and secure plan for their energy future. They want certainty for industry, stability for households and leadership that recognises how rapidly the global energy landscape is changing. This bill does not provide that certainty or confidence. It avoids any meaningful discussion of climate change and it removes Queensland's renewable energy targets that were central to guiding our energy transition. Removing these renewable energy targets matter. The renewable targets that we legislated of 50 per cent by 2030, 70 per cent by 2032 and 80 per cent by 2035 created clear expectations about where the state was heading for consumers and investors alike. They signalled to investors that Queensland supported long-term energy planning. They helped drive billions of dollars in renewable energy projects across regional Queensland. Without them, industry faces uncertainty at a time when global competition for clean energy investment has never been stronger.

While those opposite try to sell their Energy Roadmap as a sensible transition for all Queenslanders, this is not a road map to prosperity or lower power prices, nor sustainable and reliable power sources. This is a detour to higher emissions and energy insecurity for Queensland families, businesses and industries. The chief executive of Nexa Advisory put it best when she described the road map as 'nothing more than a cul-de-sac'. That is exactly what this is—a dead end for Queenslanders, a dead end for a genuine and orderly energy transition.

A government member interjected.

Ms LINARD: I am sure she would really appreciate your feedback on her comment. With this state government we now have an energy policy that extends coal-fired power well into the 2040s without firm closure dates, all while stagnating investment in renewables. That is not progress; that is regression.

While this regressive shift is taking place in Queensland, the federal coalition has stepped away from Australia's commitment to net zero by 2050—years of bipartisan agreement abandoned. The writing is on the wall: there are those economies that are investing in new technologies and clean energy to futureproof their economies and there are those that risk being left behind, facing increasing instability from continued reliance on aging, increasingly costly fossil fuels. That is where this bill places our state. That is where the LNP's Energy Roadmap is leading our state. While those opposite will no doubt ignore what we are saying as mere ideology, it is the LNP's anti-renewable ideology that is being discussed in industry boardrooms. I do not believe for a second that the Treasurer is not aware of that investor concern. The conversations are not at a whisper level and they are happening here, in Canberra and internationally. It is a total embarrassment for our state that this bill only serves to further fuel.

While those opposite say our emissions reduction targets are not next on the chopping block, alongside renewable energy targets that are being chopped by this bill, the LNP government has already cut them by stealth because you cannot achieve net zero without a credible path to get there. The concerns raised by stakeholders during consultation on this bill make the picture even more troubling. The Electrical Trades Union has warned that the LNP's plan risks shifting Queensland's energy system from a strong publicly owned model to what they describe as a privatised free-for-all. The government promises \$1.6 billion in maintenance for the state's coal fleet, while a cost analysis by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis applied to the eight Queensland coal-fired power stations to run past their economic life would require at least \$4.8 billion. That is a shortfall of \$3.2 billion.

Mr Power: \$4.8 billion!

Ms LINARD: I take the interjection. At a time when Queenslanders are struggling with unrelenting cost-of-living pressures and a state government that is trying its very best to ignore it, they deserve honest answers about what this means for electricity prices. Extending the life of aging coal stations comes with higher fuel costs, higher maintenance requirements and lower efficiency. Those pressures do not create cheaper power for Queensland households and businesses. Instead, this bill leaves us standing still while others move ahead.

There is also an environmental reality that cannot be separated from the economic one. Reducing emissions and expanding renewable energy are essential to protecting Queensland's natural assets, including the Great Barrier Reef. The reef supports tens of thousands of jobs and is central to Queensland's global identity. The world is watching how governments like ours respond to climate change. Refusing to plan for a renewable future puts our environment and our economy at risk.

Queenslanders are entitled to ask important questions such as: how can a government build a credible long-term energy plan when it removes the renewable targets that provide the direction required; how can it attract global investment when it moves away from the standards international markets expect; how can it support regional jobs when the global shift to clean energy is already driving new industries elsewhere; and how can Queenslanders have confidence that public ownership of generation assets will continue under this bill and this government? The answer is that it cannot. This government cannot build a credible long-term energy plan, attract global renewable investment or support more regional jobs with this bill and their current anti-renewables, ideologically-driven approach. Their approach limits Queensland's opportunities and it weakens the certainty that businesses and communities rely on.

On this side of the House we believe that Queensland can lead the nation in clean energy. We support a planned and science aligned transition. We support policies that keep energy affordable, reliable and sustainable for Queenslanders. We believe that regional Queensland and regional jobs should be at the centre of this transformation, not left behind. This bill does not meet this objective. It is not a pathway to long-term security or prosperity; it is a road map to nowhere.

In the time I have remaining I would like to speak briefly on the Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment Bill. It was the former Labor government that acted decisively in 2024 to ban greenhouse gas storage, specifically within the Great Artesian Basin. This decision safeguarded one of Queensland's most valuable natural assets and reflected Labor's commitment to listening to Queenslanders who were concerned about the risks carbon capture posed to this region. The Great Artesian Basin is more than a water source; it sustains communities, agriculture, ecosystems and industries across inland Queensland. Our reforms made clear that its agricultural, environmental, economic and cultural significance is worth protecting. Labor welcomes the amendments proposed in this bill as a continuation of that legacy.

The amendments allow the Carbon Transport and Storage Corporation, the former holder of the greenhouse gas exploration permit EPQ10, to convert existing greenhouse gas wells into water supply bores and transfer ownership to the respective landholders. This is a practical step forward that restores autonomy to farmers and landholders. It allows them to decide whether to plug the wells or convert them for productive use. For many that will mean improved access to water for daily operations. For others it will simply return control over their own property. However, as always the detail matters, and I note that stakeholders including AgForce, the Queensland Farmers' Federation and the Association of Mining Exploration Companies have raised valid concerns that must not be overlooked and must be addressed, including a call for clear assurances that the financial responsibility for conversion and rehabilitation rests entirely with CTSCo and also that farmers should not be left with unexpected liabilities for infrastructure they did not create. Labor therefore urges the government to guarantee departmental support and advice for all affected landholders, ensuring they understand any long-term obligations before agreeing to conversion.

The Queensland Farmers' Federation also noted that, while this bill addresses six wells within the Great Artesian Basin, other greenhouse gas exploration wells remain across Queensland, including in the Surat and Denison regions and south of Emerald. Those landholders deserve clarity about whether similar arrangements will apply to them. Labor's position is clear: coexistence must be genuine, transparent and fair; it must protect the interests of landholders, uphold environmental standards and ensure our shared natural assets are responsibly managed for future generations. The opposition will not oppose this element of the bill, but we do so with the expectation that the government acts with diligence, transparency and respect for the regional communities most affected.