



Speech By
Michael Crandon


MEMBER FOR COOMERA

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ENERGY ROADMAP AMENDMENT BILL

GREENHOUSE GAS STORAGE AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (4.51 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill 2025, which was scrutinised by the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee in its report No. 16. The Crisafulli government has a plan to deliver affordable, reliable and sustainable power for Queenslanders. The Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill facilitates delivery of the Crisafulli government's Energy Roadmap, which will reduce energy system costs for taxpayers by \$26 billion to 2035, preventing the average Queensland household paying an extra \$1,035 a year that they would have paid under Labor.

The Energy Roadmap is a pragmatic and sensible plan. It opens the door for private sector investment and a market-led approach to drive our state's energy future. The bill strengthens public ownership, streamlines infrastructure and government frameworks, and provides a legislative framework to deliver CopperString. In short, we are improving what we have while we build what we need for the future.

The bill delivers on the government's election commitment to repeal Labor's unrealistic and undeliverable renewable energy targets and replaces Labor's supergrid infrastructure blueprint with a more sensible Energy System Outlook. These changes will allow system planning to adapt to market conditions, reflecting a more pragmatic and flexible approach. The bill also introduces regional energy hubs into a legislated framework to coordinate new energy investments for renewables and gas, with the bill also strengthening public ownership, bolstering public ownership from Labor's 54 per cent of generation to 100 per cent of our existing state owned power plants. Only the LNP will protect public ownership and, in so doing, save jobs in our coalmining communities like Chinchilla, Biloela, Nanango and Rockhampton, to name just a few.

The Crisafulli government could not be clearer about its commitment to public ownership of existing energy infrastructure. It is the same reason we have \$1.6 billion invested in our Electricity Maintenance Guarantee over the next five years. The 100 per cent public ownership of both transmission and deep storage infrastructure will also be maintained, contrary to Labor's baseless claims. The bill retains the legislated priority transmission infrastructure framework and streamlines it to ensure our transmission infrastructure keeps pace and continues to bring Queenslanders reliable power to their homes and businesses.

The bill replaces renewable energy zones with regional energy hubs. It will be a legislated framework to coordinate new energy investments of all kinds in regions across Queensland. That means it will not only be renewables that can benefit from coordinated transmission infrastructure; gas can too. Despite the revelation that CopperString had blown out under Labor from \$1.8 billion to

\$13.9 billion, the Crisafulli government has committed to saving this vital project. Following the record \$2.4 billion commitment to the project in the government's first budget, the bill establishes the mechanism for the responsible minister to facilitate and support the delivery of the CopperString project. Oversight on the project is being transferred to QIC, the state owned investment manager.

The Governance, Energy and Finance Committee, of which I am chair, received 41 submissions, many of which were very detailed, to its inquiry from a wide range of stakeholders. The committee held a public hearing attended by the Electrical Trades Union, the Queensland Renewable Energy Council, the Australian Energy Producers and the Queensland Resources Council. I am sure members will agree that this is a very good cross-section of stakeholders. The committee recommended the bill be passed. Having said that, the ETU raised some concerns about the Crisafulli government's \$1.6 billion Electricity Maintenance Guarantee, arguing it does not account for refurbishments beyond the forward estimates. As the Treasurer intimated in his contribution, the \$1.6 billion covers every overhaul required within the current four-year forward estimates, because that is how budgets work. A four-year budget is not a 10-year maintenance cycle and the guarantee is perpetual. It will continue to fund maintenance in future budgets as required.

Another concern raised related to the retention of public ownership of CopperString. As I said earlier, the Energy Roadmap moves delivery of the project from Powerlink to QIC—from one government owned corporation to another. The Queensland Farmers' Federation submission supported a more flexible approach to achieving net zero by 2050, recognising that predictable and cost-conscious policy is essential for agricultural competitiveness and on-farm innovation. The Western Downs Regional Council welcomed the bill's objective to deliver cost-effective, safe, secure and reliable energy. It stated that, by working together, significant economic opportunities can be unlocked. The Queensland Resources Council welcomed the Energy Roadmap's flexible investment framework and the Queensland Renewable Energy Council backs the public ownership retention approach alongside private capital attraction, applauding the \$400 million Queensland Energy Investment Fund and Investor Gateway. Renewable energy developer Windlab, as well as Coexistence Queensland, strongly supports the shift to regional energy hubs, citing streamlined delivery, improved flexibility and better regional engagement.

I want to thank the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership for his foresight in bringing the Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill 2025 to the House and I thank the departmental officers for their work in such a complex area. Thank you, too, to the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee secretariat for its work in developing the committee's report for this important bill. As I said at the outset, the Crisafulli government has a plan to deliver affordable, reliable and sustainable power for Queenslanders. The Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill facilitates delivery of the Crisafulli government's Energy Roadmap—one that will reduce energy system costs for taxpayers by \$26 billion to 2035, preventing the average Queensland household paying an extra \$1,035 a year that they would have paid under those opposite. I commend the bill to the House.