



Speech By
Nigel Dalton

MEMBER FOR MACKAY

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ENERGY ROADMAP AMENDMENT BILL

GREENHOUSE GAS STORAGE AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

22 **Mr DALTON** (Mackay—LNP) (5.03 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment Bill 2025 and the Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill 2025—two bills that develop practical reform to protect our regions, safeguard our resources and ensure reliable, affordable energy for Queensland families, farmers and businesses. The bill amends the Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009 to give CTSCo a clear pathway to meet its decommissioning obligations for its former permit in the Great Artesian Basin. Parliament was right to ban greenhouse gas storage in the basin last year, protecting one of Queensland's most critical water resources. When the EPQ10 ended, CTSCo was required to plug several wells. This bill provides a better option, allowing these wells to be converted into water bores and transferred to landholders. Instead of sealing wells and leaving no lasting benefit, landholders receive new, high-quality water infrastructure that can support drought resilience, stop watering and improve productivity.

The bill sets out a strong framework: wells may be converted or plugged depending on suitability with certified plans, written landholder consent and compliance with strict national and Queensland standards. It also streamlines water licensing and makes conversion accepted development under the Planning Act, reducing unnecessary red tape. Rehabilitation obligations remain unchanged. CTSCo must still meet all environmental requirements and retain a limited right of entry only to complete these obligations. This delivers certainty for the industry and real benefits to regional Queensland.

Moving to the Energy Roadmap, the amendment bill resets Queensland's energy policy in a more realistic and market-led direction. Queenslanders want reliable power, manageable bills and secure jobs, not ideological targets. This bill replaces the rigid former model with a flexible energy system outlook driven by real-world investment, not political timelines. Renewable energy zones are replaced with regional energy hubs, recognising the need for a balanced mix of renewables, gas and firming capacity to maintain reliability. The bill also provides the legislative backbone to deliver CopperString, a transformational project that will unlock critical minerals and drive growth across the north-west. These bills deliver practical solutions, stronger regional outcomes and a clear, balanced plan for Queensland's energy future. The first turns redundant wells into valuable water assets. The second replaces ideological clutter with a system that works. I commend this cognate bill to the House.