



Speech By  
**Hon. Ros Bates**

**MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA**


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Record of Proceedings, 10 December 2025

**ENERGY ROADMAP AMENDMENT BILL**

**GREENHOUSE GAS STORAGE AMENDMENT BILL**

**Second Reading**

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (7.56 pm): I rise to support the Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill and the Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment Bill. Whilst this is a cognate debate, I intend to focus my contribution on the Crisafulli LNP government's Energy Roadmap. As we have said many times, this Energy Roadmap is a pragmatic and sensible approach to deliver affordable, reliable and sustainable power for Queensland businesses and families. The road map paves the way for private sector investment and is a market-led approach to securing Queensland's energy future, rather than Labor's reckless ideological pipedream.

Labor's pie-in-the-sky fantasy had no credibility or basis in reality. Their energy and hydrogen jobs plan was little more than wishful thinking. We saw this play out accordingly. Labor's Pioneer-Burdekin hydro hoax blew out from an estimated \$12 billion to \$36.8 billion with no community consultation, no community support and no planning—the single greatest energy policy hoax ever perpetrated against Queensland taxpayers.

The chaos and crisis of the former Labor government goes even further, with allegations that drilling activities left groundwater contamination in one of the state's oldest farming communities. I table the article from the *Australian*.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Australian*, dated 5 December 2025, titled 'Failed \$200m hydro project allegedly contaminates Queensland valley's water supply' [1988](#).

What a legacy for those opposite. It has also been revealed that a cabinet minister in the former Labor government—who would not be named—said 'even the 5GW size of the Pioneer-Burdekin was a creation of the premier and her political confidantes'. 'Too big and undercooked' said the nameless former minister. 'Pioneer-Burdekin was too big and undercooked, but she was all about the announcement, and she wanted a big announcement.' That is a pretty scathing assessment from the nameless former minister. Who needs enemies with friends like that in the Labor Party caucus? I wonder what the nameless former minister might say about the member for Murrumbidgee's performance to date, because we know that the member for Murrumbidgee loves a big announcement as much as his predecessor. Who can forget his \$1.4 billion plan for school sandwiches? Is this nameless former minister also agitating for the member for Murrumbidgee's removal? Only time will tell.

With this legislation, those opposite now face a choice. Will they stand on the side of pragmatism, engineering, good economics and Queenslanders? Will they endorse an Energy Roadmap informed by experts and grounded in reality or will they desperately cling to their former Labor hoax of a plan like the member for Murrumbidgee desperately clings to his leadership?

Any opposition member who is against this legislation is against the public ownership of our state owned power plants. The Crisafulli government's bill strengthens public ownership. Under our Energy Roadmap 100 per cent public ownership of transmission and deep storage infrastructure will be maintained, contrary to Labor's scare campaigns. Under Labor's plan only 54 per cent of our state owned power plants would be retained in public hands. Only the Crisafulli LNP government is protecting public ownership of power plants and in doing so saving jobs in our local coalmining communities like Chinchilla, Biloela, Nanango and Rockhampton. That is right, we are not afraid to say the word 'coal' on this side of the House—unlike those opposite.

This bill legislates a framework to coordinate new energy investments of all kinds in regional Queensland. It will not only be renewables benefitting from coordinated transmission infrastructure, gas will too. As a shareholding minister in Queensland's government owned corporations I am particularly pleased to see the road map already in action, with CS Energy entering a joint development with APA to deliver the Brigalow Peaking Power Plant in the Western Downs. This is the state's first gas-fired power station in more than a decade, helping deliver on our promise for affordable, reliable and sustainable energy for Queenslanders.

As a government we have a very clear mandate to refocus our government owned corporations on core business, to improve operation on financial performance for the benefit of all Queenslanders. Our Energy Roadmap backs in our government owned corporations to do just that: strengthening public ownership of Queensland assets, keeping existing coal-fired power generators online for longer and protecting the frontline workers who keep the lights on in this great state.

The Clean Energy Council has reported an investment pipeline in Queensland of more than 4.7 gigawatts of renewable generation capacity under construction or financially committed—the most of any jurisdiction in this country. The result is a ringing endorsement of the Crisafulli LNP government's sensible approach to energy in this state. The Queensland Resources Council has also welcomed the Energy Roadmap's flexible investment framework and I note the Queensland Renewable Energy Council has further backed our public ownership retention approach alongside private capital attraction and has applauded the \$400 million Queensland Energy Investment Fund and Investor Gateway. Renewable energy developers have strongly supported the shift to regional energy hubs, seeing streamlined delivery, improved flexibility and better regional engagement.

After a decade of decline under Labor we are getting on with the job of delivering for Queensland with a sensible and pragmatic plan to meet Queensland's energy needs. We are putting downward pressure on energy prices and restoring respect for taxpayers' funds, improving Queensland's current energy assets while building what we need for the future. Ultimately, we are laser focused on delivering affordable, reliable and sustainable energy for all Queenslanders and, accordingly, I commend the cognate bill to the House.