



Speech By

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ENERGY ROADMAP AMENDMENT BILL

GREENHOUSE GAS STORAGE AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (4.58 pm): This evening I rise to speak on the Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill 2025. I do not think it is a surprise to anyone here that I love talking about energy. As an electrician with a long history in the power supply industry and a proud member of the mighty Electrical Trades Union, I am keen to throw in my two cents' worth on this bad, backwards bill. What does this bill do? Firstly, it repeals a few things like renewable energy targets, the Energy Industries Council, the Queensland Energy System Advisory Board and the Queensland Renewable Energy Jobs Advocate. Those opposite obviously could not find any mates to put on this board, but luckily the LNP has let us know that scrapping the advisory board, the industries council and the jobs advocate will not impair the government's ability to consult experts on energy matters. Of course, it cannot consult the Queensland government consulting agency that the Treasurer promised at the election because it has not been set up yet. It has only had a year but has been too busy getting rid of energy rebates and putting up car rego.

Secondly, this bill streamlines parts of Queensland's energy policy by reducing input from Powerlink on Priority Transmission Investment decisions with a more flexible consultation process. Funny, Powerlink builds powerlines but they do not have it anymore. The third thing this bill does is rename the renewable energy zone framework, the *Queensland SuperGrid Infrastructure Blueprint* and the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Act 2024. I would like to think that means the LNP is taking ownership of something. The whole 'Labor did it' act is getting a bit old after a year into the term but a cynic might suggest renaming something good is a first step to making it disappear altogether, hoping Queenslanders will not notice. Finally, this bill redefines public ownership targets, weakens public ownership protections and opens the door to the privatisation of our energy sector.

I reckon most Queenslanders are pretty keen on renewable energy. That has certainly been my experience in my electorate and across the energy industry. You only have to look at the uptake of rooftop solar. It is more than one in every three Queensland households in Queensland—the highest rate of any Australian state or territory. I know there is significant interest from my constituents in federal Labor's community batteries and cheaper home batteries programs because Queenslanders know renewable energy is the future.

I am not anti-coal. We need to coal to make steel—we do. The reality is I think most Queenslanders recognise that coal-fired power stations are unsustainable into the future. They have done a great job over many years, but our current power demands require our system to ramp up quickly with demand and the old tech stations struggle with this and it is not good for them to do it. It is pretty simple: you burn coal in a boiler, it heats up the steam, ramps up the turbine and that takes time.

It takes time to ramp up and with current demand, renewables—including pumped hydro and, yes, gas—are quick to respond to this load and what we will need for the future, just not the privatised gas we have just sneakily been signed up for.

Renewables after the initial investment cost little to run. For those opposite: coal does cost money; the sun and wind do not. This bill will cost jobs in the renewable sector and the Deputy Premier's cancellation of renewable projects has already cost jobs. This bill will cost Queensland families when we pay our energy bills.

I remind members that it was pumped hydro that saved our grid when Callide C failed. Wivenhoe pumped hydro is 40 years old now. Who would have thought Joh could be so progressive? I do not agree with much of what Joh did, but I agree with him on pumped hydro and I wish some of this current mob were as progressive. He would be ashamed of them dumping over his pumped hydro dream.

Instead of driving a renewable energy future, the bill before us repeals, reframes and renames important energy frameworks and policy. This bill continues the LNP's plan to remove the word 'renewable' from our energy dialogue and is reflective of their head-in-the-sand ideology on climate change.

The bill diminishes government accountability on energy policy, decreases our chances of returning energy dividends to Queenslanders and dumps all over our progress on net zero. We should not be surprised because the LNP government has form. They made renewable energy projects harder to approve and undermined investor and business confidence in renewables through rushed legislation earlier this year. They scrapped the Burdekin pumped hydro project the minute they were elected along with the thousands of jobs it would have created. Joh would be so ashamed. They told us we would have dates for closing down coal in this road map and then backflipped on that. They are scaling back CopperString, hoping their mates in the private sector will step in. Just like the hospital builds and major infrastructure projects Labor invested in, the LNP have inflated the costings to justify their cuts.

At the federal level we have seen the Liberal Party taking their orders from the Nationals when it comes to scrapping climate targets. It looks like the Queensland LNP are following hot on their heels. They promise transparency, then they muddy the waters every chance they get. This bill is just one more example of buzzwords and spin. We heard the message loud and clear from stakeholders during the parliamentary committee inquiry. This bill removes clarity around electricity generation goals and emission targets in Queensland, jeopardising our state's ability to attract investment. Labor had a strong plan for jobs and energy in Queensland. We had a clear plan to bring down the cost of energy and shore up our energy supply. In contrast, this LNP government has a plan to privatise by stealth. Their anti-renewables, coal-dependent agenda will cost Queenslanders jobs and rewind us to the Dark Ages. This bill delivers the opposite of a fresh start for Queenslanders.