




Speech By
Glen Kelly

MEMBER FOR MIRANI

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MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Fuel Security

 **Mr G KELLY** (Mirani—LNP) (2.52 pm): Across Queensland right now family businesses, farmers and all industries are feeling the pinch of rising fuel prices and it is a stark reminder of just how important fuel security really is. When fuel becomes uncertain or unaffordable, everything else starts to feel it. We are already seeing what uncertainty looks like. When supply is tight or prices spike, it creates anxiety for everyone. People start to worry about access, about costs and about whether they can keep moving. In regional areas, where distances are longer and alternatives are limited, that pressure is felt even more. In an electorate like Mirani, fuel is not just about getting from A to B; it is about keeping our industries running, food on our tables, our communities connected and our economy moving.

Agriculture is one of the backbone industries of the Mirani electorate, both in land use and in the number of jobs it supports across the supply chain from sugar cane to beef, as well as mining and the critical port infrastructure that keeps Queensland's exports moving. Every one of these industries relies on secure, affordable and consistent access to fuel: for our farmers like the Barmount Feedlot near Clarke Creek which uses 600 litres of diesel a day to drive its machinery to mix the feed for over a 12,000-head feedlot; for mining, it powers operations and logistics; and at our ports it keeps the entire supply chain moving. If fuel stops, everything stops.

Fuel security is first and foremost a national responsibility, and that sits with the federal government. I welcome the fact that Queensland has taken a strong leadership role on this issue. Queensland was the first state to call out fuel security, with the Treasurer writing to the federal minister calling for national leadership and coordinating a national plan—unlike the federal government, which took five days to realise that we had a crisis. We have also raised concerns with the ACCC around fuel pricing and we welcome the investigation into whether consumers have been treated fairly. Importantly, Queensland is stepping up and working constructively through National Cabinet to support the development of a national fuel security plan.

We are not just talking; we are acting. In the short term, Queensland is ensuring there is a clear flow of information to support the federal government in maintaining supply. We are bringing together suppliers and retailers to understand the challenges on the ground and respond in real time, but this cannot just be about the short term. Australia no longer produces enough of its own fuel to meet demand. We rely heavily on imports, hold limited reserves and sit at the end of a long and fragile global supply chain. When that chain is disrupted, it is regional Queensland that feels it first. That is why long-term solutions matter.

The Crisafulli government is focused on opening up new areas of gas and petroleum exploration to secure jobs, growth and energy security. The Taroom Trough, which was mentioned by my good friend the member for Hinchinbrook, has the potential to become the first major new oil province in this country since the 1970s, and that is an opportunity that we cannot ignore. Over the last 10 years those opposite would not touch something like that because they were too afraid to upset those on the

crossbench—the Greens. This is not just about fuel; it is about food production, exports, jobs and the strength of our regional communities. Fuel security is about certainty—certainty for our farmers, certainty for our truck drivers, certainty for our miners and certainty for families trying to get through the day. Here is the simple truth: if the fuel stops, Mirani stops and, if regions like mine stop, Queensland stops without us.