

Speech By

Wayde Chiesa

MEMBER FOR HINCHINBROOK

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Primary Industries

Mr CHIESA (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (2.55 pm): I rise to speak on an issue that goes right to the heart of our regional communities and that is the need for Queensland and indeed Australia to become more self-sufficient when it comes to critical inputs that underpin our farming and primary production sector. What happens on our farms and in our fishing boats is of national importance. It flows through to our families, flows through to costs in the supermarket and ultimately impacts every household right across this state. In places like Hinchinbrook, I am hearing this firsthand.

Farmers are dealing with supply issues and rising fertiliser costs. They are dealing with high and volatile fuel prices and they are dealing with ongoing uncertainty around the inputs they rely on every single day. When those pressures hit our farmers and commercial fishers, they have to absorb those pressures and they flow right through the supply chain. The reality is we are too reliant on things we do not control. We are too reliant on imported products, we are too exposed to global supply shocks and when those shocks occur regional Queensland feels it first and feels it hardest.

The former Labor government was happy to sit back and watch this happen, but the Crisafulli government is starting to take the steps to address this. We are backing the Mount Isa copper smelter which secures the sulphuric acid supply to allow fertiliser to be produced at Phosphate Hill and used in farms right across Hinchinbrook. This is a practical example of how we can support fertiliser production right here in Queensland, and we need to do more of it.

The Crisafulli government's Energy Roadmap was another important piece because, for the first time in a very long time, we are starting to see downward pressure on power prices—10 per cent this year, after annual increases of 19.9 per cent under the former Labor government.

When it comes to fuel, the opportunity presented by the Taroom Trough and our broader refining capability is significant and one that I know gets people excited. Fuel security is not an economic issue; it is a national security issue. I am most certain the people of Hinchinbrook will join with me to call on the federal government to work with the Crisafulli government and fast-track this development.

Take yesterday's announcement: under funding from the Crisafulli government's Sovereign Industry Development Fund, the Ampol Lytton refinery will now produce 20 million litres of renewable diesel from 2028. Drill, refine, store. Say it with me: drill, refine, store.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order, member for Pine Rivers! You are warned under the standing orders.

Mr CHIESA: We cannot stop there. There are more important steps, but the challenge in front of us is bigger. We need to continue building our sovereign capability when it comes to fertiliser, fuel and energy. We need to back our regional industries that add value here, not offshore, and we need to

ensure our farmers, particularly in regions like the Herbert River district, Kennedy and Tully, the northern suburbs of Townsville and everywhere in between, have certainty about the inputs they depend on. It is not just about farming; it is about cost of living and regional jobs. We have the resources, we have the capability and we have the opportunity. Now the Crisafulli government, unlike Labor, will just get on with it.