

Question on Notice
No. 1363
Asked on Thursday, 10 November 2022

MR B HEAD ASKED MINISTER FOR ENERGY, RENEWABLES AND HYDROGEN AND MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND PROCUREMENT (HON M DE BRENNI)

With reference to the safety concerns raised by Mining and Energy Union President Stephen Smyth in The Australian on 7 November 2022 and given Mr Smyth has said it is currently dangerous for workers at coal fired power stations like Callide, citing close calls workers have had—

Will the Minister advise (a) what actions the Minister is taking or implementing to resolve these safety concerns and (b) when will these actions be implemented?

ANSWER

The Queensland Government expects that the safety of workers and the community comes first at all times at state-owned power generators.

Generator companies are required to implement asset management strategies as part of their safety management and right to operate frameworks, which includes compliance with all relevant statutory, legal and corporate governance requirements.

The Treasurer and the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen have commissioned an independent review of asset management and cyber security of the Government-owned generation portfolio. The key objectives of the review are to:

- ensure current approaches to asset management and maintenance reflect contemporary practice;
- appropriately address risks and ensure the delivery of reliable and secure power to consumers;
- support the energy transformation underway, including maintaining system reliability and security over time to complement strategic planning around conversion to clean energy hubs; and
- enable businesses to ensure contemporary practices are in place as they continue to expand their asset portfolios.

With respect to the structural failure of the Callide Unit C3 cooling tower on 31 October 2022, CS Energy advise that, as the operator of the Callide C Power Station, they:

- have been working productively with Workplace Health and Safety Queensland (WHSQ) in relation to the investigations at Callide Power Station;
- have appointed two external engineering experts to investigate the root cause of the incident on the Unit C3 cooling tower; and
- are appointing a team of independent engineers to look across their entire asset fleet; helping them to better understand their asset condition and further refine their asset management plans.