



## David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

---

# Surat Basin News column

August 17, 2017

### **Qld-owned power generation duopoly needs a shakeup and Kogan Creek expansion is the answer for lower prices: Maranoa MP**

I'M CALLING on the State Government to put our people ahead of profits and stop using state-owned generators as a cash cow for state coffers as Queenslanders struggle to cope with sky-high power prices.

Last month I visited the state-owned CS Energy's Kogan Creek Power Station and it has the ability to expand operations. There's a coal mine already operating, with coal deposits to last hundreds-of-years, so it makes sense to expand this operation to address Qld's energy price crisis and grow Surat Basin jobs in the process.

The CS Energy CEO has been in the media, doing the owner's bidding, saying the current political environment lacks certainty for expansion. That's exactly right because of Qld Labor's reckless rush to increase renewable energy from 4% to 50%, within 13 years, will turn electricity into a luxury that our most vulnerable won't be able to afford.

There are some exciting proposed renewable energy projects in Maranoa but I also believe coal remains a vital part of our baseload system because we can't replace our baseload with something intermittent and very costly.

The CS Energy and Stanwell duopoly don't want change because the Labor State Government has a vested interest in the current power landscape of high prices.

Increasing supply through expansion at Kogan Creek would help to address that supply issue with the cleanest coal fired electricity in the country.

How can Labor, in good conscience, milk \$1.5 billion from state-owned generators but let seniors and families doing it tough balk at turning on a heater because they're frightened of the next power bill? It's absolutely disgusting and it has to stop.

The State Government's 2017-18 Budget forecasted a \$1.5 billion windfall over the forward estimates from the state-owned generators – that's a 110% increase on the dividend contained in the 2015-16 Budget.

The former Qld Labor Government merged three generation companies into two – CS Energy and Stanwell – with the state-owned generators owning 65% of capacity.

This market concentration means power generation and distribution into a licence to print money and totally neglects Queenslanders – the seniors, families and small business owners who call this great state home. Queenslanders own Stanwell and CS Energy and we demand a better electricity price deal

Nationally we've seen Labor close coal-fired power stations without any attempts being made to replace them with other sources of reliable baseload power.

The Coalition Federal Government proposes new high-efficient, low emission coal-fired power stations which cost \$2.2 billion each – considerably less than \$3 billion of subsidies handed out in renewable subsidies each year.

–ENDS–

**Media Contact:**

Eloise Handley

M: 0411 095 860

E: [eloise.handley@aph.gov.au](mailto:eloise.handley@aph.gov.au)

---