



## Minister for Energy and Clean Economy Jobs

Our Ref: MN02826-2024  
Your Ref: A1248463

19 March 2024

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Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
Email: TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to Petition No. 4017-24 and 4041-24 titled 'Curra Deserves Reliable Power Supply', which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 5 March 2024 by the Member for Gympie.

To the people of Curra, I would assure you that since 2023 Ergon Energy has been delivering a \$1.5 million electricity distribution network upgrade in the region. The work is aimed at improving the electricity network by adding an alternative feeder to the area while increasing network capacity and safety. The project has been progressing well and is scheduled to be completed by mid-2024.

This LNP inspired petition is however misleading with respect to outages and the response.

*It claims that 'the region has been subjected to 13 extended blackouts during December and January. These have not been caused by planned outages and weather events. The outages lasted for up to days and occurred when the Government was warning residents to take precautions because of extreme heat waves'.*

The reality is this. Saying severe weather did not cause some of the recent outages is incorrect. Saying that some of the outages lasted days is incorrect – I am advised there were no multi-day outages. Ergon crews responded to unplanned outages as early as practically possible to restore power supply in a safe manner. The Member for Gympie should have disclosed that he knew work had commenced before initiating this petition and acknowledge the inconvenience of connection disruptions due to storms, as well as planned outages due to upgrades and efforts to do everything possible to minimise these.

The safety of crews, customers and the community are the highest priority when responding to unplanned outages. This attack on Queensland energy workers is a blatant example of the LNP wanting to claim credit for the hard work and planning of others. The same crews that have been battling to restore power in the wake of multiple disasters that have hit the state.

Instead of leading his community the Member for Gympie is sowing the seeds of discord and discontent when people simply want the truth.

Energy Queensland continues to maintain Queensland's state-wide distribution network of powerlines, substations and easements through the energy transition ensuring the safe, secure, and reliable distribution of energy to Queensland consumers.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mick de Brenni', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mick de Brenni MP  
**Minister for Energy and Clean Economy Jobs**