Much of the following is in response to Pat Conaghan's newsletter of August 2022.
https://patconaghan.com.au/statement-climate-bill-2022/

I wrote basically as follows. I've edited it since to address what I had thought, naively, would be some of the "yes but"s in his reply, of which I received none.

26/9/22

Dear Mr Conaghan,

You devoted the back page of your latest newsletter to a statement on what you called the Climate Bill 2022. It was actually the Climate Change Bill 2022 passed in both houses in spite of your vote against.

You seem to have avoided any mention of the change in climate which is happening as a result of human activity.

You forgot to include in our country's emissions those produced by the burning of our coal which we have exported to other countries.

You suggest our use of fossil fuels is decreasing because they are "becoming outdated". They are poisoning the atmosphere and destroying our habitat. Outdated is the least of our worries.

Energy from nuclear fission is not viable economically and not a feasible available energy source now.
It takes 8 or more years to build and commission a reactor at triple or more the cost per MWh than renewables. Costs for nuclear ere increasing. Decreasing for renewables.

Blue hydrogen uses non-renewable methane and produces carbon dioxide and heat.
Green hydrogen (using renewable energy to split water into oxygen and ~~money~~ hydrogen)? Maybe, but packaging it as ammonia to cart it around and unpacking it to burn is still problematic – expensive and dangerous!

Other future energy sources that don't exist - they don't exist. Pinning our future on such hopes is like dreaming. But advances in materials science are continuing and many of the properties of renewables you believe to indicate their limitations (mining, recycling) are already showing signs of being overcome.

The perfect energy source is nuclear fusion!

Nuclear fusion energy does exist and is readily available now from the sun. We receive it free as radiation and it creates wind and waves. We have also cleverly developed miraculous materials to turn it into electrical energy which we can store.

Time and money to "fix" our existing networks? At the end of each network branch is a household or business. Given time and money, each of these can become close to self sufficient in energy generation. Now. Cheap.

I could quote sources but you have the parliamentary library available for your use. Ask Dr Cathy Foley – our chief scientist. They will have the latest papers of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation and many other sources of accurate information about emissions, energy production and climate change but to get you started:

https://www.csiro.au/-/media/D61/Our-Future-World-Megatrends-report/FIN-OFW-Megatrends-22-report.pdf

Ask Dr Cathy Foley – our chief scientist.

Ed Husic - minister for this stuff - could give you some tips but watch out for political spin.

Pat's beliefs:

The energy and climate debate continues, and today the House of Representatives passed the Bill that enshrines the 43% emissions reduction by 2030 target.

I do not believe that there is anyone who truly does not see a benefit to minimising our potential negative impacts on our environment. No one wants to leave our planet worse off for having had us on it.

To do this effectively, we do need to ensure that we are realistic around our needs as a population and the actual impact to global emissions that changes to providing for these immediate needs will have in the short term.

Australia contributes just 1.3% of total global emissions. We have reduced our emissions faster than many other developed nations, including Canada, Japan and the United States who all contribute significantly more to global emissions than Australia. China alone contributes 27% of current emissions, with no formal plans to curb this.

Our emissions are currently more than 20% down on 2005 levels, while our economy has grown 45% over that very same period. We have already beaten our 2020 targets and were already well on track to over-achieve on our original 2030 targets.

Australia is a country that has enjoyed consistent power supply at a reasonably low cost when compared to other nations. We have relied predominantly on fossil fuels and technologies that are now becoming outdated to achieve this. We have invested heavily in renewables historically, and more recently in blue and green hydrogen technology.

I do believe the future is in green and blue hydrogen and in all types of renewables, including ones that I am sure we are yet to create. The simple fact is however that nuclear energy must also be put on the table for future consideration, to ensure that we as a country can continue to enjoy consistent power supply at a reasonable cost. We are the only OECD Nation without Nuclear Power, which is quite extraordinary given our new emissions targets.

Renewables are wonderful, but they do have limitations in the fact that they are reliant on weather. They also require significant land mass to create supply at scale. They are not currently recyclable, so outdated models become an issue. To create renewables, mining of cobalt, lithium and tellurium is required. These minerals do not just appear on our doorstep, they do need to be mined.

Currently, we do not have sufficient renewable networks in place to sustain our population. This can be overcome, but we do need time and money to achieve this. In the meantime, our supply is at risk and prices are skyrocketing because we won't invest in fixing our existing networks in the interim, nor invest in modern nuclear technology that is available to us now.

My problem with the current plan is there is no detail on how, when or where the additional 604,000 jobs promised by Labor will materialise, how costs will be kept low and how power supply will be guaranteed. We've been told the jobs will be in 'the regions', but have been given no true assurances. Additionally, there are no safeguards currently for our primary producers to ensure that they are not bearing the brunt of the costs when it comes to transitioning. I believe that every country does need to look seriously at transitioning to more efficient energy sources with less negative impact on our environment, but I also believe that this transition needs to be fair, measured and considered.

My focus remains with the regions and ensuring that we secure appropriate concessions for stronger safeguards for regional communities and regional jobs. That is my number one priority, always has been, to ensure that we protect regional and rural Australian jobs, I've made no secret of this and will continue to fight for a fair go for the people of Cowper.