




Speech By
Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR ALBERT

Record of Proceedings, 12 October 2017

MOTION: ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (6.11 pm): I rise to join the debate on the motion moved by the member for Burleigh. After that contribution from the Treasurer I can certainly say that Queenslanders should fear Labor's ill-thought-out energy plan for this state. As reported in the *Courier-Mail*, the Palaszczuk government's bright idea—some could say not so bright because of the blackouts—is to suggest that—

Households and businesses may be told to restrict airconditioner use and have power switched off on some hardwired appliances under plans to prevent blackouts during heatwaves this summer.

In other words, the Palaszczuk government have finally done it; they have flicked the switch on power. Again we see the green lemmings opposite treating Queenslanders like mushrooms: keeping them in the dark and feeding them on their lefty propaganda. My question to those opposite is: where does their moral compass point? They scream about climate change, yet they are happy to mine all the coal and sell it overseas to our trading partners. However, they hate the idea of using it here to create electricity.

We are an energy rich state with resources abundant, yet we see pensioners like Margaret, a lovely lady in my electorate, struggling to pay her ever-increasing utility bills. Margaret is like many people in our community who are elderly pensioners who live in rental properties and are forced to live day to day and forced to pay ever-increasing power costs. For those like Margaret this Christmas will be bleak, whilst energy bosses pocket huge bonuses. Her Christmas is threatened to include cold turkey, warm beer and oppressive heat while sitting around the kitchen table due to the real potential risk of load shedding on our energy networks occurring.

Labor's extreme rush for 50 per cent renewable energy targets has deep ramifications. The Palaszczuk government's commissioned report by the Queensland Productivity Commission found that the mad rush to renewable energy will cost Queensland families \$317 million more for electricity. Businesses will pay \$221 million more. Industry will pay \$746 million more. These crippling prices will place enormous pressure on job creation and economic growth, further highlighting the hollow promise of the Palaszczuk government's jobs mantra.

Our industries are struggling to compete with nations to which we sell our coal. Therefore, this is one of the greatest concerns that many residents come to me and express: where will the jobs for our children come from if we continue down this path? We need realistic energy sources that do not wring the life out of our businesses and cripple our networks. One would think the poor management of energy security in South Australia would be a wake-up call, but this has fallen on deaf ears when it comes to the Palaszczuk government. In the letters to the editor in today's *Courier-Mail*, Lisa from Ashgrove writes—

So, to deliver a 50 per cent renewable energy target, the Palaszczuk Government is recommending that Queenslanders should set their airconditioners to 26C this summer.

What era are we living in?

To what extent does the Government have the right to interfere in our private lives?

Valdy from Salisbury also makes a very good point. That letter states—

If and when we are asked to set our airconditioners to 26C this summer ... who is going to police it.

It's not like the days when we had water restrictions and you could dob in your neighbour for sprinkling their lawn.

The LNP has a realistic plan when it comes to energy security. We support the national renewable energy target of 23 per cent by 2020. We will—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. One moment, members. I am having difficulty hearing the member for Albert. If I cannot hear the member for Albert, I know Hansard cannot. We will just wait. If members want to chat across the chamber, they can step outside.

Mr BOOTHMAN: The LNP will build a new high-efficiency, low-emissions coal-fired power station to ensure baseload power for Queensland. Only the LNP has a sensible energy solution—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Thank you.

Mr BOOTHMAN: When it comes down to it, we will support private enterprise in this state and create real jobs for real Queenslanders.