



Speech by

Mr M. ROWELL

MEMBER FOR HINCHINBROOK

Hansard 11 November 1999

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Electricity Charges

Mr ROWELL (Hinchinbrook—NPA) (10.03 a.m.), by leave: Yesterday, the Minister for Mines and Energy claimed that I misled the House by referring to tabled NEMMCO data which clearly showed that the pre-dispatch price of power in Queensland at 9.30 a.m. yesterday—viewed from the perspective of 7.30 a.m.—was \$76.82, compared with prices for the same period in New South Wales and Victoria of \$21.

The Minister said that his investigations revealed that the final prices—the dispatch prices—for that period were, in fact, considerably lower. I apologise to the Minister for assuming that he knows how the market works. I should have realised that he would have needed an investigation to come to terms with that very simple transparent data. I assure the Minister that there was no attempt to mislead him, and I will take greater care in future to try to avoid confusing him. Of course, the market is based on pre-dispatch and dispatch prices, and they do change as time marches on.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Is this a personal explanation or a matter of privilege?

Mr ROWELL: It certainly is a personal explanation. I felt wounded yesterday by the Minister's comments.

Mr Cooper interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The member for Crows Nest! I am asking the question of the member for Hinchinbrook.

Mr ROWELL: It is a personal explanation about what the Minister said.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! How was the member personally affected?

Mr BORBIDGE: I rise to a point of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Leader of the Opposition will resume his seat. I am asking the member for Hinchinbrook how he was personally affected.

Mr ROWELL: It affected the information that I provided to the House the day before.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! But that is not a personal explanation. The member will resume his seat.

Mr ROWELL: Mr Speaker, I beg to differ.

Mr BORBIDGE: I move—

"That the member for Hinchinbrook be further heard."

Mr ROWELL: It really is a reflection on my integrity.

Motion agreed to.

Mr ROWELL: I thank honourable members. I am certain that they will appreciate what I am about to say next. But I would suggest to the Minister—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The member will resume his seat. Now we have peace. I call the member for Hinchinbrook.

Mr ROWELL: But I would suggest to the Minister that he consider the historical data concerning the dysfunctional generating profile he bequeathed to this State as a result of his incompetence during

the Goss administration and see if he can investigate the actual price of power in this State whenever the demands are anywhere near 5,500 megawatts. I assure the Minister that I can comprehend what he is looking at. He will find it absolutely frightening.

If the Minister can remember this far back—it is what blew his estimate of an average of \$37 a megawatt-hour out to \$60 a megawatt-hour last financial year. And the Forward Budget Estimate for this financial year for CSOs is not very rosy, either.
