



Speech by

**Hon. Kate Jones**

**MEMBER FOR ASHGROVE**

Hansard Wednesday, 17 June 2009

---

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **ClimateSmart Home Service**

**Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability) (10.17 am): I am very pleased that, despite the global financial crisis, the Bligh government is keeping one of its most popular programs—the ClimateSmart Home Service. It employs more than 160 electricians, with 50 more supporting front-line staff. This is a ‘green-collar’ workforce that is reducing Queensland’s carbon footprint. Since it began in January this year, more than 53,000 homes have been serviced, with another 13,000 booked and on the way. That is an average of 10,000 homes a month receiving the service and 556 homes a day booking one in. Last week alone, we did more than 4,300 homes. That is phenomenal demand after only five months.

I congratulate the householders who want to improve the way they run their homes for a more sustainable Queensland. Unlike those opposite, they have not got their heads in the sand when it comes to climate change and they are doing what they can to reduce their carbon footprint. But I have to say that the immense and immediate popularity of this initiative was more than we expected and, as a result, it has been quite difficult in the early stages to recruit enough electricians, which has caused some regrettable delays in some areas. That is why when I became minister—

**Mr Rickuss:** What’s their hourly rate?

**Ms JONES:** That is right. Once again, you are taking the opportunity to deride climate change. It is happening, it is real, wake up to Australia. That is why when I became minister—

**Mr Gibson:** What’s their hourly rate?

**Ms JONES:** Well, the member should listen. For the member for Gympie’s benefit, that is why when I became minister I undertook to ensure my department was doing all it could to keep waiting times down and run a smooth service. Consequently, our service provider—Local Government Infrastructure Services—has significantly increased capacity from 60 electricians in March to 160 electricians today. As a result, I expect wait times in certain areas to decrease over time significantly.

**Mr Gibson** interjected.

**Ms JONES:** This is a program that you would have cut if you were elected in March. Let me put that on the record, too.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The minister will direct her comments through the chair.

**Ms JONES:** I just wanted to remind members that, if the LNP had been elected, this is a program that would have been cut. Through this program, Queensland is leading the fight against climate change. The service costs just \$50 but it is worth at least \$450 to households, and it can save them up to \$250 a year on their electricity bills. Householders are not only saving but Queensland is reducing our emissions. If all 53,000 homes completed so far end up changing their electricity use behaviour, we would save a total of more than one million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions over an eight-year average. It is a huge saving for our environment and to Queenslanders’ hip pockets.