




Speech by

Steve Davies

MEMBER FOR CAPALABA

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ELECTRICITY (EARLY TERMINATION) AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr DAVIES** (Capalaba—LNP) (12.22 pm): I rise today to speak about the Electricity (Early Termination) Amendment Bill. This bill is yet another step in the right direction by the LNP government. I commend the minister on the proactive way that he has worked at reducing the cost-of-living pressures on Queenslanders. I find it refreshing that this government is not a government of empty rhetoric but a government that has the will and courage to stand up to rogue electricity companies to ensure that Queenslanders get the value for money and the fair go that they richly deserve. Juxtapose this with the previous government's promise that deregulation of the electricity industry would mean that everyday Queenslanders would pay less for their electricity. I can personally testify, as an everyday Queenslanders, that my bill has doubled over the last six years.

This bill is a clear message that the LNP Newman government understands the hardships facing Queenslanders and many of the constituents of Capalaba and how this government is willing to fight for them. Last week my electorate office doorbell nearly needed a battery replacement because of the number of constituents who were in and out all week, electricity bills in hand, expressing their concern about the reckless price gouging that is already hurting some of Capalaba's most vulnerable residents. Many of these residents are already battling with the previous government's 20-year legacy of failure and mismanagement of the Queensland economy. Adding to this is the incompetent Gillard government's job-killing carbon tax—a tax on electricity, a tax on the air we breathe.

The Electricity (Early Termination) Amendment Bill is good for competition. It is good for those in Capalaba doing it tough. The bill requires that electricity retailers notify affected customers if charges are more than the notified charges and inform customers of their entitlement to exit the contract without penalty. By allowing fluid arrangements in the marketplace, residents in Capalaba will be given every opportunity to find a better deal. It is simple economics and it is good for Queensland. By creating a legislative framework that allows consumers to seek a better deal, the residents of Capalaba will have more freedom to choose a provider that caters to their needs rather than locking them into contracts and arrangements that simply do not suit an ever-changing consumer landscape.

Those in opposition have not had the fortitude to stand up for Queensland in the past and I very much doubt they ever will. Their self-serving politics is about preservation, not service, and they have proved worthless as a government and worthless as an opposition, incapable of standing up to their federal colleagues and putting an end to Australia's biggest tax—a tax on everything; a tax, as I said, on the air we breathe. This tax affects many people in the electorate of Capalaba. As the member for Mansfield said earlier, as you walk around the electorate you find that carbon tax is what the people are talking about. They are basically oiling up their baseball bats ready for the next election to let the Gillard government know their dissatisfaction about a tax that would never, ever be there in a government she led.

Mr Ruthenberg: It is a tax against working families.

Mr DAVIES: It is. It is a tax against the working class, in fact. I commend this bill to the House. I think it is a great thing.