




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

MOTION: CARBON TAX

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (11.29 am): I rise to speak in support of the Treasurer's motion in relation to scrapping the carbon tax and encouraging the current senators to pass this measure as soon as possible. There is no doubt that the carbon tax is bad for Queensland. It is also bad for Australia and for international investors, which the Deputy Premier talked about. The carbon tax has added some \$150 million to government expenses in the last year. Imagine what that money could have done for hospitals, roads and schools in my electorate. It could have provided services in not only the wonderful electorate of Nanango, which I always talk about, but also other electorates—Burdekin, Ipswich West, Townsville, Thuringowa and Chatsworth. All of these electorates could have benefited from this money. And that is just Queensland government money. What about local governments and the effect of the carbon tax impost on their bottom lines? That all gets handed on to ratepayers.

Let us look at the cost of electricity. The carbon tax has resulted in an increase in electricity bills of some 10 per cent. That affects not just the taxpayers of Australia; it affects every single Australian who turns on a light switch. This carbon tax affects mums and dads, small businesses, large businesses, dairy farmers. The carbon tax affects not only business bottom lines but also the budgets of mums and dads who use electricity. This is a broad based consumption tax, without a doubt. We need to get rid of this tax as soon as possible.

Ms Trad interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Businesses in my electorate, for example—and this is how far it goes—

Ms Trad interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Those on my left. Member for South Brisbane, the member is not taking interjections. The member has the call.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: If you look at businesses you see how far this tax goes. What the carbon tax does to Swickers, Australia's largest pork processors, in the great town of Kingaroy, is diabolical. It takes jobs from my town. It takes money out of the pockets of my local businesses and they cannot afford to put more people on. These are efficient, well run businesses. The pork producers themselves are paying astronomically high electricity bills to keep their pigs nice and cool, by spraying water over them. Then Seiler's Transport picks up these pigs to get them to Swickers. The impost on the Queensland transport industry resulting from the carbon tax is just incredible. Do those opposite not understand how large Queensland is? Truck drivers and transport operators have to drive long distances. The carbon tax impacts on them as well. It is absolutely diabolical.

Nick Behrens of the CCIQ has said that small and medium businesses have been affected by this tax. They have been left in the dark by a government that has failed to properly explain the effects of this tax. He said—

For many the arrival of bills and invoices containing advice of price increases and new carbon surcharges has come as a shock and many will really struggle to absorb these costs.

I want to talk about a wonderful Queensland business—the Royal Flying Doctor Service, an icon of Queensland for over 80 years. The carbon tax will take \$361,000 from their bottom line. Imagine how many people in rural and regional areas they could fly in, pick up and help if the carbon tax did not impact their bottom line. Many good Queenslanders dig into their pockets and offer money to this wonderful charity service. With \$361,000 they could do more fantastic work. I implore those opposite to call their federal colleagues to encourage them to pass this legislation through the Senate.

Ms Trad: No.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I hear those opposite saying no. That is just embarrassing. Think about all the pensioners they are saying no to. They are paying 10 per cent more for their electricity. This tax is bad for Queensland and bad for Australia. This tax needs to go.