




Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**

**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

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## **ENERGY AND WATER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (5.35 pm): Again I have the pleasure of following the member for South Brisbane in debate. I rise to support the Energy and Water Legislation Amendment Bill 2013. First I welcome back the Minister for Energy and Water Supply. It is great to have him back in the House. What a fantastic week he is having, with the passing of this bill a little later tonight. I would also like to thank the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee, chaired by the member for Gympie, Mr David Gibson, for considering this bill and making recommendations. I note that there was no dissenting report in relation to this bill.

This legislation will mean the closure of the Queensland Gas Scheme, the closure of the Smart Energy Savings Program and the amendment of the South-East Queensland water act to reflect the deamalgamation of the Noosa Shire Council from the Sunshine Coast Regional Council to ensure continued sewerage provision to the new local council.

**Ms Trad** interjected.

**Mr Stevens** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** There is too much chatter across the chamber. The member for Nanango has the call.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** This bill, most importantly, is being brought before the House because the scheme has served its purpose. We have encouraged investment in the gas industry. Irrespective of what the member who spoke before me said, this is a bill that reduces red tape. I commend our government for bringing this bill before the House.

As I did yesterday, I again encourage those opposite to talk to their federal colleagues and ask them to consider scrapping the carbon tax.

**A government member:** There's not too many left.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** There are not many of them left so they should not have to take too many phone calls.

**Mr Minnikin:** It would be a quick call.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** It would be a quick call. As I said, this scheme has served its purpose. The closure of the Gas Scheme and Smart Energy Savings Program will cut red tape from the state's energy sector. The Queensland Gas Scheme places a regulatory burden on the generators and retailers that ultimately transfers through to Queenslanders' electricity bills. This means some \$5 to \$7 on each of our household electricity bills. It increases the cost of living.

The Queensland Gas Scheme began in 2005 to boost this industry and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It requires retailers to source 15 per cent of their electricity from gas fired generation. Retailers currently source around 20 per cent of their electricity from gas fired generation, therefore

exceeding the 15 per cent target. The continued application of the Gas Scheme, combined with the effect of the carbon tax, results in a duplication of these costs. Again, I encourage those opposite to encourage their federal colleagues to scrap that disastrous tax because this cost is passed on to all of the mums and dads of Queensland, all of the small businesses and all of the large businesses. It is just diabolical.

Since the introduction of the carbon pricing mechanism in July 2012, there has been a duplication of obligations that would otherwise exist under the Commonwealth legislation. Therefore, this is unnecessary red tape for a scheme that has achieved its purpose by securing investment in the gas industry and increasing gas fired generation usage.

In July 2009, the Smart Energy Savings Program commenced to encourage energy savings in Queensland businesses that had very high electricity use. That meant that, under the program, businesses such as theme parks, large manufacturing businesses, hotels and other very high electricity users were required to undertake audits of their energy use, develop and demonstrate energy savings plans and publish the results on a five-yearly cycle. That was just another load of burdensome administration for these businesses and, typically, like other Labor schemes, it provided no savings at all for those businesses.

**Mr Minnikin:** Bing bong.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** My colleague the member for Chatsworth spoke very eloquently about the cost of compliance of this scheme. The estimated cost of this scheme to businesses could be some \$2,000 to \$3,000, depending on the size and complexity of the business.

I would like to take a couple of minutes to congratulate the minister on the 30-year electricity strategy discussion paper that was released today. It is a wonderful piece of work. I look forward to being able to discuss this paper with the great constituents of the Nanango electorate. I also look forward to inviting the honourable minister to again visit my wonderful patch of the world.

**Mr McArdle:** Second best in the world.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I take that interjection. I think it is prudent that I read the following—

The Queensland Government has a vision for the electricity sector: Queensland's electricity supply system will be resilient, cost-effective and customer-focused to support the economic and lifestyle aspirations of Queensland customers.

I congratulate the minister on releasing this document. What a wonderful start to where we need to get in relation to electricity pricing! I also congratulate all the federal LNP members representing electorates around my electorate who were elected. I look forward to their vote in the House to scrap the disastrous carbon tax. I commend the bill to the House.