




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (10.22 am): It is fair to say that nothing that has been said by the Premier or her ministers this morning can hide the fact that Queenslanders have been stuck with 12 months worth of inaction. This is a government that is completely frozen by indecision. This is a government that is frozen at the wheel. This is a government that is without a plan and it certainly has no clue. There is no better example of that than in the electricity sector. We held out hope—because nearly 12 months ago one of this government's 80 reviews was the Queensland Productivity Commission's review into electricity pricing—when it comes to electricity in this state, that maybe when that draft report was handed down in January the government would finally have a plan. But then the release of the report was delayed. When it was eventually released, we understand now why the release of the report was delayed. The Queensland Productivity Commission's draft report on electricity pricing is to the Palaszczuk Labor government what the Holy Hand Grenade was to Monty Python. The government had been given a plan, but it was so frozen that it still could not work out what to do with it.

There is no better example of that than this D-grade Treasurer's handling of the Seniors Card. The QPC report states—

We have recommended that the Queensland Government as soon as practicable ... remove eligibility for the electricity rebate for QSC holders. The QSC is not means tested, and it means that anyone over the age of 65, regardless of income (and need) can access the electricity rebate. We have estimated that 106,000 households with QSC cards would no longer be eligible for the electricity rebate.

At the press conference on the day of the release of the draft report, what did we have? The D-grade Treasurer was asked what he would do on that one. He said, 'Well, we'll have a look at that.' He was asked again, 'What would you do?' 'Well, we're going to have a look at that.' He was asked again, 'What are you going to do about that?' 'Well, we're going to have a look at it.' Over and over and over again the Treasurer was asked and he said, 'We will look at it.'

Mr Cripps: Just a flesh wound.

Mr POWELL: I take that interjection from the member for Hinchinbrook. It was just a flesh wound. Within 24 hours the Treasurer was out with his own statement, which said—

Treasurer Curtis Pitt has again assured Queensland pensioners and seniors their existing electricity bill concessions are not at risk.

The press release stated further—

We will always ensure we look after our pensioners and make sure their existing concessions are safe.

That means that the government still has not made up its mind on this one. Potentially, anyone who is turning 65 anytime soon can expect to have their electricity rebate ripped off them. I say to the Treasurer to get a plan, to get serious about addressing electricity prices in this state and to stop scaring the pants off our pensioners.