




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

Record of Proceedings, 15 September 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Electricity Prices

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (10.02 am): Today I am pleased to announce that South-East Queensland electricity users are set to access an even wider range of new products and deals as innovative retailer Mojo Power enters the Queensland market. The arrival of Mojo Power in South-East Queensland is an early sign that the deregulation of retail prices is bringing benefits to South-East Queensland consumers after 43 per cent increases under the previous government.

Mojo Power is a new electricity retailer with a business model that is completely different to anything we have seen before in Queensland, offering customers discounted prices under a subscription based service. New companies in Queensland and more competitive prices mean customers will have even more modern electricity deals and products to choose from, and more opportunities to save money on their power bills. All types of households, with both larger and smaller consumption patterns, can benefit from shopping around for a better deal. In Queensland, two new retailers have entered the small business market since deregulation commenced and we have seen different offers available in the market every week.

The Palaszczuk government is empowering customers to take advantage of the full benefits of a deregulated marketplace through an extensive public consumer education campaign on social and mainstream media. I am sure many members have seen that underway. Importantly, we are also providing extra support to ensure that vulnerable customers are able to engage in the market. Our \$1.2 million funding agreement with the Queensland Council of Social Service over the next four years will include assisting vulnerable customers to access the tools and information they need to compare offers and to get the best energy deal to reduce their power bill.

Further support for vulnerable customers is being provided through initiatives such as the \$500,000 Switched-on Communities grant program funded by AGL. Nine different community and not-for-profit organisations throughout South-East Queensland will receive funding to deliver information about energy pricing, hardship assistance and show them how to access the tools they need to shop around, such as the Energy Made Easy independent price comparator at www.energymadeeasy.gov.au. We are very happy to work with the community sector for better outcomes for consumers.