



Speech By  
**Tim Nicholls**


**MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD**

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## **PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

### **Palaszczuk Labor Government, Electricity Prices**

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.56 pm): Another day and another broken election promise by this inexperienced, asleep-at-the-wheel Palaszczuk Labor government. The sad reality for Queenslanders is that this is the same old broken Labor when it comes to power prices, when it comes to managing energy supply, when it comes to protecting Queenslanders. Today Labor has broken its election promise where it said it will develop policy responses to help put downward pressure on electricity prices, yet all we are going to see from this response is prices going up. Prices will continue to rise for ordinary, hardworking Queenslanders across this state. They will continue to go up. We have not heard this government say, 'We are driving the price down.' All we have heard it give is mealy-mouthed excuses for why the price is going to increase. Under Labor, Queensland families, Queensland industry and Queensland farmers will be paying more. Their next power bills are still going up under Labor.

The Beattie-Bligh government was a master of this program. It started it off. It was addicted to dividends. What did it do? It increased dividends to 100 per cent. What has this government done? Increased dividends to 100 per cent. What did that do? That forced them to borrow more. What has this government done? Forced them to borrow more. There is only one conclusion: when Labor interferes with energy companies, when Labor imposes its crazy extreme green ideology on these power companies, Queenslanders always end up paying the price. How do we know that is the case? Because the Queensland Productivity Commission has told us so. The Queensland Productivity Commission has said that the cost of Labor's failed Solar Bonus Scheme will be over \$3 billion to 2028. So bad is it that the Treasurer's hand-picked Queensland Productivity Commission said it should turn the switch off right now. That is what it said to this Treasurer. This is a Treasurer who was going to listen to his Queensland Productivity Commission but has ignored the major recommendations because he has no solutions. He does not know what to do. This is the Treasurer who voted to put \$3 billion on to the cost of power bills for ordinary Queenslanders and this Premier voted to put \$3 billion on to the power bills of ordinary Queenslanders.

This Premier and this Treasurer were part of a government when Treasurer Andrew Fraser wrote to the Australian Energy Regulator and said, 'We want to charge more,' and locked in power price increases from 2010 that we had to fix up and were fixing up. Only the LNP has a plan to reduce power prices.