



Speech By  
**Verity Barton**


**MEMBER FOR BROADWATER**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 February 2016

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance**

 **Miss BARTON** (Broadwater—LNP) (2.52 am): We saw over the weekend the first anniversary of the Palaszczuk Labor government. After 12 months of inaction, no plan, of locking up the potential of Queensland the only thing that this Labor government has been able to achieve is the unlocking of the fear of tens of thousands of seniors across the state by scaring the pants off them over electricity prices and their electricity concessions.

Across Queensland there are more than 100,000 seniors who take advantage of the \$320.97 concession that is offered to those who are eligible and hold a Queensland seniors card. Last year I took the opportunity to ask the Minister for Seniors just how many people in my electorate take advantage of the seniors card. I was reliably informed by the minister that in the postcode of 4216 there are 11,598 card holders, entirely within my electorate. We estimate across the other postcodes that cover a few electorates that there is another couple of thousand.

We are talking about between 14,000 and 15,000 residents of my electorate who are holders of the seniors card. It absolutely beggars belief that the Queensland government would consider ripping from them their electricity concession. What we have seen is a Labor government that promised to ease the cost-of-living pressures but instead does not care about the seniors who live in my electorate or the many electorates across Queensland.

The Productivity Commission, which, as we all know, was set up by the Labor government last year, took the opportunity as directed by the government to consider the electricity concessions framework because the Labor Party thinks they are inefficiently targeted. The Productivity Commission took the opportunity to recommend that Queensland seniors should lose their eligibility to electricity concessions. Our D-grade Treasurer, Curtis Pitt, is still vacillating. Potentially thousands of Queenslanders, including the approximately 14,000 seniors in my electorate who are 65 or over, will have their rebate potentially ripped off them.

What we have seen after 12 months of inaction, no plan, 80 inquiries and scaring the pants off the pensioners of Queensland is that Labor is frozen at the wheel. All I can say is that it seems that they are more concerned with freezing pensioners this winter than doing anything about Queensland and the cost of living.