



Speech By  
**Brittany Lauga**


**MEMBER FOR KEPPEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 7 September 2017

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Electricity Prices**

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (2.39 pm): At the 2015 election I campaigned hard in Keppel against the Newman-Nicholls government's proposal to sell off our state's electricity assets. Workers, community organisations—

**Ms BATES:** I rise to a point of order. Mr Deputy Speaker, you have made rulings in the past about referring to Newman-Nicholls or Trad-Palaszczuk. Can you rule on that, please?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Member for Keppel, you need to refer to the previous government by its correct name.

**Mrs LAUGA:** Yes, Mr Deputy Speaker. If I may start again I will replace the term that I used.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No, you will need to continue on.

**Mrs LAUGA:** At the 2015 election I campaigned hard in Keppel against the LNP's proposal to sell off our state's electricity assets. Workers, community organisations, students, nurses, families, lawyers and people from all aspects of our community came together to join my campaign and stand up to the LNP to say—

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** I rise to a point of order. Mr Deputy Speaker, I would appreciate your guidance on this matter. We just heard an interjection by the member for Logan referring to the Newman-Nicholls episode again. You and your colleagues in the chair have made a ruling. I think most members have abided by that, and we have heard an interjection along those lines.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Logan, I did not hear your interjection. If it was around the previous ruling I council you not to repeat it, otherwise you will be warned under 253A. The member for Keppel has the call.

**Mrs LAUGA:** At the 2015 election I campaigned hard in Keppel against the Newman-Nicholls proposal to sell off our state's electricity assets—

**Ms BATES:** I rise to a point of order. That was in blatant disregard of your previous ruling on my previous point of order. The Newman-Nicholls government was mentioned yet again by the member for Keppel.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I rise to a point of order. The rulings that have been made in this House in relation to the point of order that was made by the member for Mudgeeraba relate to the phrase 'Newman-Nicholls government'. There have been a number of occasions, including this morning, where members have made reference to the Newman-Nicholls days to Newman-Nicholls proposals and there have been no rulings made in relation to that. The ruling has been made in relation to the concept of referring to the former government as the Newman-Nicholls government. There are all sorts of circumstances where references are made to periods of time in the state's history, and that includes the last few years.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** I rise to a point of order. I listened very intently and respectfully to what the Leader of the House said, but I would argue that what we have just heard goes against the spirit of the ruling.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** My understanding is that the ruling has been made with regard to the government and calling the government by its correct name. I counsel all members in the House to make sure that, when they refer to governments or previous governments, they use their correct names. I call the member for Keppel.

**Mrs LAUGA:** Regardless, I campaigned hard in Keppel against the Newman government's proposal to sell off our state's electricity assets. Workers, community organisation, students, nurses, families, lawyers and people from all aspects of our community came together to join my campaign and stand up to the LNP to say, 'We don't want our assets sold.' The 2015 election was an important election for us in Central Queensland. At stake for us in Central Queensland was Stanwell Power Station—one of the largest and most efficient and economic power stations in Australia—and Ergon, our government owned corporation which operates regional Queensland's electricity network and retail operations. Combined, Stanwell and Ergon employ thousands of Central Queenslanders and provide significant employment and business opportunities within our region. Despite the benefits to our local economy and community, and despite strong backlash from the Central Queensland community, the Newman government was determined to sell off our electricity assets. In fact, the Newman government made some very bad choices when it came to their Strong Choices campaign. They spent over \$70 million of taxpayers' money in advertising—bad choices, not strong choices whatsoever.

The Queensland Labor Party fought hard to save our electricity assets, and with the support of Queenslanders we won. The retention of our power industry assets in public ownership has enabled the Palaszczuk government to place downward pressure on electricity prices. We know that price rises hit many Queenslanders because they came on top of the 43 per cent leap in bills inflicted on them by the LNP, which was too lazy to even try to influence power prices. Queenslanders simply cannot afford another surge in electricity prices under the LNP and One Nation similar to the 43 per cent price rises under the three years of the previous LNP government. New coal-fired power stations are unnecessary, as we already have four supercritical power stations and a huge level of base load capacity. The Palaszczuk government is 100 percent committed to continuing to use public ownership to keep electricity prices as low as possible.