



Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**


**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

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Record of Proceedings, 5 September 2017

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Electricity Prices**

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.43 am): Queenslanders all across this great state face record high electricity prices because of this incompetent Palaszczuk government. Family budgets are under strain with forever increasing electricity bills and all of Labor's policies do one thing, that is, increase electricity prices. Whether it is Labor's extreme 50 per cent renewable energy policy that will cost Queenslanders \$18 billion or Labor's zero emissions target by 2050 that will see coal-fired power stations close—

**Mr BAILEY:** I rise on a point of order. Given that we have the lowest wholesale electricity prices in the nation and the lowest increase of any mainland state, what is the member for Nanango actually talking about?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! There is no point of order; the member is just debating the topic.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** That is why the member is sitting up the back. He was an incompetent energy minister and he has been shelved because of allegations of corrupt conduct. The member is not interested in what this is doing to Queenslanders' power bills and he should hang his head in shame.

Let me repeat: Labor's extreme 50 per cent renewable energy policy will cost Queenslanders \$18 billion and Labor's zero emissions target by 2050 will see coal-fired power stations close, meaning the jobs of today will not be the jobs of the future. What about Labor's unfair vegetation management laws that even Ergon Energy said would increase electricity pricing? Labor is not supporting the Commonwealth government's plan to remove limited appeal rights for network businesses. What about Labor loading \$5 billion of debt on to the government energy businesses? What about the fact that Labor is raiding 100 per cent of dividends from government energy businesses? This incompetent Palaszczuk Labor government allowed Stanwell to price gouge, resulting in wholesale electricity prices increasing by 70 per cent. Labor has no plan to tackle record high electricity prices. All of Labor's policies are doing one thing: driving up electricity prices through the roof.

Labor's latest electricity con in the south-east corner is the only deal with the foreign owned Alinta Energy. First, the claimed saving is only over two years. Secondly, because the LNP took steps to deregulate the retail electricity market, only families in some sections of the south-east corner can shop around to get similar deals which are not propped up by the government deregulation. Further, Labor's deal with Alinta was not subject to an open and transparent competitive process. It was not offered to retailers based in Queensland. In the long run, it will harm competition and discourage other retailers from entering the market because they will need to compete directly with the government backed virtual 'gentailer'.

It is obvious that the LNP is the only party interested in putting downward pressure on Queensland electricity prices. So far, the LNP has announced that it will scrap Labor's extreme 50 per cent renewable energy target, saving Queenslanders \$18 billion. We will establish the agriculture,

energy and water council, a forum scrapped by this incompetent Labor government. Labor does not want to work with or listen to our farmers. In fact, the disgraced energy minister blamed farmers for increased energy prices. I table an article from *Queensland Country Life*—

*Tabled paper:* Photograph depicting Hon. Bailey, dated 28 June 2017 [1559].

*Tabled paper:* Article from *Queensland Country Life* online, dated 28 June 2017, titled 'Why farmers are to blame for high electricity bills' [1560].

**Mr BAILEY:** I rise on a point of order, I take personal offence at the member for Nanango's comments and ask her to withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Nanango, will you withdraw?

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I withdraw. This article by *Queensland Country Life* which I am happy to table is headlined 'Why farmers are to blame for high electricity bills'. The incompetent, failed energy minister or then energy minister—

**Mr BAILEY:** I rise on a point of order. I am being misrepresented by the member for Nanango. That is not accurate and I ask her to withdraw.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Mr Deputy Speaker—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hang on, I have not asked you to continue. I never heard the member for Yeerongpilly's point of order because of all the noise in the House, so I will hear the member for Yeerongpilly's point of order, make a ruling and then we will move on.

**Mr BAILEY:** I submit to you respectfully that the headline to which the member for Nanango refers is that of a media outlet; it was not a quote from me. I never said those words. For the member to misrepresent me again is a disgrace and she should withdraw. I ask that it be withdrawn.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Yeerongpilly, you can write to the Speaker and state your grievances.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** That article clearly articulated what this Palaszczuk government thinks of regional people, of farmers.

**Mr WATTS:** I rise on a point of order. The member for Yeerongpilly is interjecting with unparliamentarily language.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I did not hear it, member for Toowoomba North. If you want to, write to the Speaker about it. Member for Nanango, you can continue.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** The article clearly outlines the blaming of farmers for high electricity bills. That is this incompetent government.

*(Time expired)*