



Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**


**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

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Record of Proceedings, 24 October 2017

**MOTION**

**Renewable Energy Target**

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (6.21 pm): It is an absolute pleasure to rise in this House to speak in support of the motion moved by the member for Burleigh. I follow the member for Gladstone, who has just sold out his electorate. The electorate of Gladstone is reliant upon many industries as well as the Gladstone Power Station, which employs 320 people and contractors. What is hanging over their head? Under a 50 per cent renewable target, their jobs are at risk. That is clear from the reports that we have seen in the *Australian* today.

Worse than that, the member for Gladstone sat by while 150 employees lost their jobs when the Boyne smelter decided that it had no choice but to reduce its production by around 20 per cent. This government has no idea what big business is trying to deal with in terms of electricity prices. Boyne smelter had no choice but to downsize its workforce and cut its production by 20 per cent. That happened because of the energy prices under this do-nothing Palaszczuk Labor government.

I want to give the House some figures: four per cent, 70 per cent, 26 degrees, \$50 and Labor's policy of having a 50 per cent renewable target that will add \$200 to each and every Queenslanders' power bill. The Climate Change Authority has put out these figures. At the moment in Queensland, around four per cent of our electricity comes from renewables. In the last sitting week in this House we were told that, in this great state, under four per cent of power generation by renewables we were going to end up with blackouts and that it is going to be too hot in Queensland over summer. So what should we do? We were told that we should turn up our air conditioners to 26 degrees.

Labor does not have a plan for relief for our farmers, our business owners, our mums and dads and our elderly. Labor's only plan is to give people \$50 a year. The power bills are still going to go up. That has been proven. Instead, Labor is going to buy votes by supposedly giving people \$50 off their first bill. What is going to happen when people get their second bill and it does not have that \$50 rebate, yet people have relied upon it? This is a subsidy that is buying votes and this minister knows that very clearly.

The member for Burleigh touched on the fact that this incompetent government cannot seem to get it through its head that 50 per cent means 50 per cent whether we are talking about it in terms of the Commonwealth government or 50 per cent when we are talking about it in terms of a state government. It is a different 50 per cent. What is it? The top 50 per cent or the bottom 50 per cent? It is absolute incompetence.

Most worryingly, this policy will result in one thing: the loss of jobs in the regions. Our coal-fired power stations are located in the regions—in the great electorate of Nanango and in the electorate of Rockhampton. There are 700 jobs at Stanwell. Kogan Creek Power Station is one of our newest power stations in the fleet and it has 75 direct employees. The Callide Power Station at Biloela has 205 employees. Millmerran Power Station has 50 direct employees and 150 indirectly employed. Hundreds of jobs in small country towns are at risk because of this incompetent Labor government that does not understand that 50 per cent renewables is going to shut down these small regional towns.