




Speech By
Fiona Simpson

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

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MOTION: ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (6.23 pm): What we have heard from the Labor Party is that there are possible emergencies coming. That is scary stuff, and that is what we are warning about. What we have seen here is a Labor Party that is preparing people for blackouts. By this motion we are calling on this House to condemn the Palaszczuk government for its Summer Preparedness Plan, which asks Queenslanders to set their air conditioners to 26 degrees or above to avoid blackouts. We are not talking about a plan to help people save money, which was the plan that was articulated by the member for Caloundra, Mark McArdle, in that 2012 media release about saving money. This Labor government is now talking about emergencies. This Labor Party government is now talking about blackouts. What has Queensland come to? What has this great state come to when people are being told, ‘Get ready! You may have blackouts because there may not be enough supply’? Who would have thought that we would see this in Queensland?

Labor cannot build the roads that Queensland needs; they cannot build the dams that this state needs; and they certainly cannot manage the rail services. Now under the guise of this glossy Summer Preparedness Plan the truth is exposed: they cannot manage power. Under Labor, quoting from their own words in the Summer Preparedness Plan—

If the demand for electricity is greater than the available supply, there is no choice but to reduce demand or else the entire system can fail.

It goes on. Perhaps trying to soften the passing of the buck, they say—

By working together as a community to reduce our electricity use during peak times, we can help keep reliable electricity supply on for everyone.

In other words, ‘Mums and dads out there, it’s your fault if the power goes out, not this inept Labor government,’ which is now flicking the blame to the public. Reliable power is the job of government. It should be the job of a First World government, but they are acting like a Third World government, and to boot they are trying to blame the public. In other words, mums and dads, grandparents, the sick and the elderly, as well as businesses, are being asked to do the job that this government will not do, which is to ensure reliability. Mums and dads, grandparents, the sick and the elderly are being asked to ration their electricity use and they are being told that it is their fault. It is just a bit rich, isn’t it? They are paying record prices under this Labor government’s record. We have seen record wholesale electricity prices and a power tax by stealth.

We have also seen this government put the debt onto the power companies and they are ripping out 100 per cent dividends. As has been shown in the past, Premier Peter Beattie ripped out record dividends which ended up in blackouts and brownouts, because you can get away with a sugar hit for a while at that level by loading your debt and your dividends and stripping it out as a tax by stealth from these government owned entities, but ultimately that led to blackouts and brownouts under Labor. The only thing that is reliable about Labor in Queensland is that they are not reliable. They seem to know how to muck up the power system and they seem to know how to muck up the supply of water. We have seen it time and time again, and here we go again.

I want to remind the House that we also have a minister who should be called the minister for the lack of energy supply and the minister for passing the buck. This *Queensland Country Life* article states 'Why farmers are to blame for high electricity prices'—

Mr BAILEY: I rise to a point of order. I find the words of the honourable member for Maroochydore personally offensive and inaccurate and I ask that they be withdrawn.

Ms SIMPSON: I withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Maroochydore, do you want to table that? It is not a prop.

Ms SIMPSON: I would like to table this article—

Mr SPEAKER: Put it down. It is not a prop. A prop is disorderly behaviour; you are aware of that. Thank you very much, you can continue. Have you withdrawn?

Ms SIMPSON: I have withdrawn and I withdraw again. I table this article from the *Queensland Country Life*.

Tabled paper: Document titled 'Why farmers are to blame for high electricity bills' [[2038](#)].

Let us talk about what Queenslanders are saying about this government: 'This government needs to stay out of our homes.' For goodness sake, I wish they would! Not only are their hands going into the pockets of everyday Queenslanders and ripping out their last buck with record power prices; now they are asking them to do the job of government in terms of ensuring reliability of energy supply. Lisa Gelsomino from Ashgrove said—

So, to deliver a 50 per cent renewable energy target, the Palaszczuk government is recommending that Queenslanders should set their airconditioners at 26C this summer.

What era are we living in?

(Time expired)