




Speech By
Lachlan Millar

MEMBER FOR GREGORY

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Electricity Prices

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (2.49 pm): I rise this afternoon to put on record my utter disappointment with the way the Labor government is ripping off Central and Western Queenslanders. The Brisbane-centric Labor government's new joint venture between the state owned generator CS Energy and the private retailer Alinta Energy, which is expected to save South-East Queensland households \$350 is proving once again they are a government for Brisbane, not a government for Queensland. What about the rest of the state? What about the Central Highlands? What about the central west? What about the Channel Country, Emerald, Longreach, Clermont, Winton or Boulia?

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr MILLAR: It is all right for Yeerongpilly, but the member does not care about Yaraka. He does not care about what is happening out there.

The rising cost of electricity is hurting individual families, small businesses, manufacturers and farmers in every part of Queensland. Every day I am hearing reports from people about the rising cost of kitchen table bills: electricity, water and rates. People are racking up credit card debt just to cover the cost of household bills. Some small businesses in the electorate of Gregory have seen their power prices and their bills triple.

The Labor government is using increased power prices to secretly tax Queenslanders. We are all paying for it. Under Labor's latest power price brainwave, only taxpayers in the south-east corner will benefit. The wholesale price of electricity has increased under Labor. We all know it started under Beattie and Bligh when they started to gold plate the network and it is only getting worse under the Palaszczuk Labor government.

Coupled with Labor's pursuit of the unrealistic 50 per cent renewable energy target, it is no wonder people continue to pay through the nose for electricity. Queensland cannot afford another—

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): Order! Member for Yeerongpilly, I think we have heard enough from you. I will warn you if you continue.

Mr MILLAR: I think the rest of Queensland has heard enough from the member for Yeerongpilly. He is concerned about Yeerongpilly, but he is not concerned about what is happening in regional and rural Queensland. These electricity prices are hurting everyday mums and dads out there in regional Queensland and we have to remember that this is the wealth corridor, the wealth areas of Queensland. They pay their GST; they pay their taxes. They are workers in the coalfields and in the farming enterprises. They all put in towards the GST, their taxes and export dollars for Queensland.

As I said, Queensland cannot afford another three years of this sort of rubbish. I stand with members on this side who are committed to putting downward pressure on electricity prices and reducing the cost-of-living expenses for all Queensland households. All Queenslanders deserve to get

a fair deal. People out there are hurting at the moment. They are using their credit card to try to pay basic kitchen table bills—kitchen table bills that they cannot afford. They are trying to put kids through school and they are trying to put kids through sport. They are receiving massive electricity bills on their kitchen tables which they cannot afford and they are using their credit cards and overdrafts just to pay off basic household bills. It needs to be addressed.