




Speech By
Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

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MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Electricity Prices

 **Mr BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (6.39 pm): Let us be very clear about what this motion is. This is the latest attack by the LNP on the public ownership of our power assets. That is what it is about.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members, I will consider inviting the member for Yeerongpilly to start again if it becomes a rabble.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: All right. I call the member for Yeerongpilly to start again, please.

Mr BAILEY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Let it be very clear what this motion is about. This is the latest attempt by the LNP to do over public ownership of our power assets and to privatise them. They have been defeated on the substance of asset sales and now they are attacking it by the back door. That is what this motion is about. They are attacking the fact that we are using the dividends this year to cut the power price increases in Queensland by more than half. That is what they do not say in this debate. That is why they are so deceptive and so misleading of Queenslanders—because they do not tell the truth. The truth is that we are getting the best power price outcomes anywhere in this country in terms of the wholesale price. We have had the lowest wholesale prices in this country since March of this year, and that will continue for the next three years.

What we are seeing here is the good old LNP trick involving the promise of one thing before an election. Remember that one where they said they would not privatise without a mandate but then they went ahead and did it anyway. This is what they are trying to do this time. They are saying, 'We won't sell assets,' and then they will get into power—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. I can see that the member for Gregory is very excited in the back corner.

Mr BAILEY: We are seeing that the lowest wholesale price increases in mainland Australia are in Queensland—at 3.3 per cent versus 19 per cent in other states. We are seeing the lowest wholesale prices across the country since March and for the next three years in Queensland under this government.

Let us look at the LNP policy. They mucked up power before with 43 per cent price increases, and that is why they are in opposition right now. That is the truth of it. What have they got planned? These are their two policies—one, get rid of the 50 per cent renewable energy target, a target that is driving 20 large-scale renewable projects for Queensland and \$3 billion worth of investment; and, two,

wait for it, and I will quote the member for Mount Coot-tha, their madcap plan for a ninth coal generator. That is their plan—to back old technology that is expensive and that will put bills through the roof. The most devastating critique of Tim Nicholls' energy policy was by the Treasurer of this country. Scott Morrison, who is from the same party as Tim Nicholls, said in the *Australian Financial Review*—

... let's not think that there's cheap new coal, there's not.

He said that a coal-fired power station—

takes seven years to turn up. So if we think that is all of a sudden going to make your power bills cheaper next month, it won't.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. I can hear you loudly from your seat, member for Mermaid Beach.

Mr Stevens interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Yes, I can hear you very loudly.

Mr BAILEY: I know it is embarrassing to hear that Scott Morrison has demolished their energy policy in the national media over the last few weeks. Let me quote Scott Morrison again—

... the era of cheap, coal-fired power is coming to an end and anyone claiming it is the sole solution to the nation's energy dilemma is propagating a myth.

The member for Clayfield, by the federal Treasurer's own words, is propagating a myth. That is very clear.

What the opposition never do is they never stand up to Canberra. They never stand up to their own party. They are not fit to be the government of Queensland. When it comes to the national electricity market, they will not stand up to the federal government. They will not listen to people like Alan Finkel, the Chief Scientist of this country, who tells us that new coal-fired power is not only a little but a lot more expensive than renewable energy. They do not listen to Alan Kohler, who said on national TV only a few weeks ago that the lowest wholesale prices in the country are here in Queensland. That was from Alan Kohler. If you know better than Alan Kohler, good luck to you on that one.

The Australian Energy Council has made it very clear that if there was ever going to be a new coal-fired power station it would not be in Queensland, because the price signals are in South Australia and Victoria. That is from the Australian Energy Council. The price signals are lowest in Queensland because we are delivering 20 large-scale renewable energy projects—the cheapest form, the latest technology, the best for people's bills. The Australian Industry Group, the peak business body, has said that prices would have to sustain at nearly double the level to pay for a coal-fired power station.

This is yet another stunt by a bunch of energy incompetents, a bunch of energy ignoramuses, who mucked it up last time and who will muck it up again if they get half a chance and get in again. We have seen nothing yet. It was 43 per cent, and we would see a lot more if they ever got the chance again.

(Time expired)