




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

Record of Proceedings, 11 October 2017

MOTION: ENERGY COMPANIES, EXECUTIVE BONUSES

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (6.29 pm): We hear the opposition members express their vehement opposition to executive bonuses. I have a letter. It is a cracker. I will read it out to members. It is dated 11 February 2014 and it is from the 'Office of the Treasurer and Minister for Trade'. It states—

Dear Premier/Campbell,

I am writing in relation to the government owned corporation governance arrangements for chief and senior executives. Government arrangements issued in its current form to government owned corporations in February 2019. These arrangements have now been comprehensively reviewed having regard to current market practice and the government's desire to increase autonomy for boards of government owned corporations.

I come to the best point—

Please note employment terms and conditions for government owned corporation chief and senior executives are at the discretion of the boards of the government owned corporations. I have issued this policy to the government owned corporations.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Nicholls.

That was Tim Nicholls's policy. It gets better. His postscript to Campbell Newman states—

PS: These settle after extensive discussions with relevant agencies and after advice you have reviewed them from Jon Grayson, Tim.

Good on him! The policy that the opposition is complaining about is their policy. Do members see a consistent theme here? They have also banged on about an aspect of the Summer Preparedness Plan, which their own party did at a federal level.

This is a lazy opposition that does not do the policy grunt work required to form government. In fact, their arguments are not even factual. Let us compare executive bonuses under the Newman government, of which the member for Clayfield was treasurer, and the current government. Let us compare the year 2013-14, the first year of the Newman government, to our most recent complete year. There were \$257,000 less in bonuses under the Palaszczuk government than under the Newman government. What capital-H hypocrites are the opposition! They paid executives more than we do. It gets worse. I have been advised that there actually has been a decrease of 6.9 per cent of total pay and bonuses under the Palaszczuk government in 2016-17 compared to 2013-14. They are not being truthful. They are not being factual about this.

In this debate, at no time has an opposition speaker talked about the federal government. This is a national electricity market, but it is a broken national electricity market. Has the opposition once stood up for Queensland against their colleagues in Canberra? They never do. They are weak. They are capital-W weak, particularly the member for Clayfield. You cannot be weak and be premier of this state.

The opposition policy is a fraud and a fantasy. It is not even factual. As I outlined, under Labor bonuses and remuneration have decreased, yet their policy states that those things have increased by nearly as much as electricity prices. This is fraudulent. It is a fantasy. This is all the opposition has. It is a one-page document that is full of inaccuracies and lies. I compare that to the Powering Queensland Plan, which contains 22 pages of reform and contemporary energy policy that backs the cheapest form of energy infrastructure. They are backing expensive old technology, that is, a coal-fired power station. I table a submission from the Australian Energy Council that outlines that there is no market demand for a coal-fired power station because it would send bills through the roof.

Tabled paper. Article from Energy Council web page, dated 20 July 2017, titled 'Where do we need a new dispatchable power station?' [\[2005\]](#).

The opposition has not done the work. If you cannot run an energy policy—indeed, if you do not have an energy policy that makes any sense—you cannot run the state. At energy conferences the Queensland LNP are laughed at when people hear their positions and it is not hard to work out why. Their policy on executive salaries would save Queenslanders one cent per week or 50 cents per year. That is their policy. It is lazy, it is pathetic and it is not befitting any political party with integrity. I urge members to vote down this motion.