




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

Record of Proceedings, 12 October 2017

MOTION: ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (6.29 pm): This is a pathetic motion by a lazy opposition—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Minister, will you please recommence your contribution.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: No. Come on. Let's get on with it. Members, allow the minister his five minutes to make his speech, we can vote and then we can go to the adjournment debate. It is your call.

Mr BAILEY: This is a pathetic motion by a lazy opposition of energy lightweights covering up for their lack of an energy policy—their ignorance, their fantasy and their fraud on energy. Downloading an app and waving your phone around or having a degree in laminating A3 is no substitute for having an energy policy. That is what we are seeing from the opposition.

Let us be very clear about the Queensland power situation. The Australian Energy Market Operator has reported that Queensland is the only mainland state connected to the National Electricity Market where no electricity shortfall is forecast over—wait for it—the next 10 years. That is a fact. Instead of an energy policy from the opposition, we see more distortions, more lies and more laziness. They do not have an energy policy. The only two things they have released are their one-cent-a-week saving for people on executive salaries and a new coal-fired power station, which would drive bills up by double digits, just like under the Newman government. Their only policies will drive up the cost of power across Queensland.

Those opposite are against the 50 per cent renewable energy target. They are against the clean energy boom that is happening in Queensland, with 21 large-scale renewable energy projects in our state, driving the lowest wholesale electricity prices in the country on average since March. That is the opposition position. When they were in government we went from having the lowest wholesale prices to the highest. We have brought them back down to the lowest. That is the truth. They shut Tarong. They shut Swanbank. They shut down supply and drove up the price. They sacked power workers and they drove prices up by 43 per cent.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, if you want to interject, please return to your allocated seat.

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Burleigh. I have heard you all evening.

Mr BAILEY: In a dynamic 24-hour, seven-day-a-week energy market you have 17½ thousand spot prices per year. The shadow energy minister thinks that waving around one spot price is some kind of policy. Save us all! What a joke! That Gold Coast shark David Crisafulli is circling the member for Burleigh, circling his frontbench spot. He can sense blood in the water. He knows how hopeless the member is. He is going to run him down.

Twenty-six degrees has been in the Queensland government's draft emergency orders for years, going back to the previous government. That is a fact. These are protocols that DEWS has turned to time and time again in extreme circumstances. It is a well-established and agreed option across jurisdictions and nationally. The Australian Energy Market Operator uses 26 degrees as the basis of its demand reduction calculator for estimating energy reductions from voluntary or mandatory restrictions. During the heatwave last summer the New South Wales Liberal National government requested residents to set air conditioners at 26 degrees. When it was going through its energy crisis of February 2017, this is one of the initiatives it used. We have never had to use it in Queensland because we are an energy powerhouse and we have no shortage of supply for the next 10 years.

When it comes to demand management, other states use this as standard: New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia—even the Commonwealth government. Josh Frydenberg, the federal Minister for Energy, said only yesterday that thousands of households will also be invited to voluntarily conserve their energy use under the pilot projects in exchange for incentives such as rebates on their power bills. This was for New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. Was it for Queensland? No, because Queensland has the most robust power system in the country. The federal government backs these kinds of measures.

What we see from the opposition is distortion instead of policy. It would rather frighten people than develop real policy. You cannot run the Queensland economy unless you can run good energy policy. That is where the member for Clayfield and the member for Burleigh fail every time. They are lazy. If they think the people of Queensland are going to swallow that laziness during the election campaign, they have another think coming. The people will see through this lack of a policy. These measures are used only in extreme circumstances and we have never had to use them—and we are not likely to have to use them.