




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

Record of Proceedings, 24 October 2017

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Electricity Prices

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (10.46 am): As outlined by the Premier, the Palaszczuk government continues its unwavering commitment to deliver stable electricity prices for households and businesses after the 43 per cent increase they suffered under the member for Clayfield when he was the treasurer. The simple reason we can is that we own the energy assets. It was the Palaszczuk government that saved them from sell-off by the LNP. Only the Palaszczuk government can be trusted to keep our power assets in public hands. We are using the levers of public ownership to reduce costs and return dividends to Queensland electricity consumers.

In June we announced our \$1.1 billion Powering Queensland Plan, which included a \$770 million investment to shield Queenslanders from the massive electricity price rises being caused by Malcolm Turnbull's broken National Electricity Market. As a result, the Palaszczuk government more than halved the proposed seven per cent increase by the QCA down to 3.3 per cent this year, lower than any other mainland state in the National Electricity Market, some of which are suffering price increases of up to 20 per cent. Our Powering Queensland Plan is also delivering the lowest average wholesale price in Australia since March with the renewable energy boom in Queensland bolstering our energy mix.

Despite these actions, we know the price of power is still hurting Queenslanders due to the policy paralysis of the Abbott and Turnbull government. The Palaszczuk government will never stop backing Queenslanders. As the Premier mentioned, our \$300 million new Affordable Energy Plan announced this week is delivering savings and a safety net for Queensland electricity consumers. We are capping it to the inflation rate over the next two years, something that no other state can do.

Today I have further good news for Queensland electricity consumers. We are investing in more initiatives that enable those energy consumers who cannot afford to invest in renewable energy to be part of our clean energy future. We are investing \$40 million to improve access to solar and batteries and other affordability reforms that the Treasurer will announce shortly. This means for households and small businesses that are unable to afford solar and battery technology that we will be offering no interest loans delivering savings of up to \$700 a year.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Before the minister resumes, the member for Chatsworth has a first warning under standing order 253A.

Mr BAILEY: The opposition gets confused when we help Queenslanders with their electricity.

Mr SPEAKER: Please do not provoke, Minister.

Mr BAILEY: We are committed to a trial program to work with landlords and renters to enable the benefits of solar to be shared. Under the trial program, we will offer financial incentives to landlords to install solar systems and pass on to their tenants savings of up to 10 per cent on their annual bills, with

landlords expected to receive a rebate of up to \$520 per year. These are real commitments, real policy and real action on power prices. The Treasurer will have a further announcement to make regarding this. Our \$300 million Affordable Energy Plan will be delivered from January because we cannot wait for the Turnbull government's so-called National Energy Guarantee, which is untested and unmodelled. The Palaszczuk government is taking action now to strengthen our economy and energy affordability in Queensland.