




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

Record of Proceedings, 24 October 2017

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Electricity Prices

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (11.27 am): If the member for Mudgeeraba and the LNP were sincere, they would put One Nation last. We hear words but no actions backing up the words. One Nation deserves to be put last by both major parties. If they were sincere, that is what they would do.

Our energy affordability plan is only possible because the Palaszczuk government stopped the Leader of the Opposition privatising our energy assets. We ended the 43 per cent price increases, we saved our assets and we have seen a long history of reform under this government. We have directed Energex and Ergon to pass on network savings. We have done the same with Powerlink. Our Powering Queensland Plan, a huge piece of policy work in June this year, has seen wholesale prices come down to the lowest in Australia since March this year.

We have a North Queensland clean energy hub. We have brought back Swanbank E after it was decommissioned by the Newman government to bring back more supply. This year we have cut the price increase by more than half. Our 50 per cent renewable energy target is driving just under half of all new energy infrastructure in Australia, and our energy affordability plan gives people a cut of \$50.

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr BAILEY: I hear the interjection from the member for Burleigh. He is confused, because we are helping people reduce their bills—something the LNP did not do when it was in power. We are introducing a safety net so that bills will not go up any higher than the inflation rate for the next two years—a cap to back in electricity consumers, something which the Newman government with the opposition leader as treasurer could have done but did not. They left electricity consumers to the wolves.

Our record is very strong and we have had the lowest increase of any mainland state in Australia. Compare that to the LNP, and the Leader of the Opposition made a calculation error yesterday. He was out by only \$340 million when it came to the dividends when he was the treasurer! He has no idea what is going on. Let us look at the LNP policy—what little there is out there. Their executive policy saves \$1 million; it is a saving of one cent per week for electricity consumers. That is his policy. He condemns public ownership every time he gets in front of a TV camera and he keeps his shadow spokesperson hidden away. Consumer groups—we consult them already. Backing old technology will drive bills up. Tim Nicholls will cut anything except people's power bill. How many dividends did he give back to electricity consumers? None! How much did he spend on Strong Choices and privatisation? He spent \$100 million. He did not cut people's bills. He fattened up power stations for privatisation. He did it before and he will do it again. There is no doubt about that whatsoever.