




Speech By
Peter Russo

MEMBER FOR SUNNYBANK

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Affordable Energy Plan


 **Mr RUSSO** (Sunnybank—ALP) (12.56 pm): I rise this afternoon to highlight some aspects of the Palaszczuk government's Affordable Energy Plan. Once again we are a government that listens to the needs of Queenslanders both in the regions and elsewhere. Queenslanders have told the Palaszczuk government that they are concerned about the cost of living. Today I will outline the Palaszczuk government's plan for affordable energy—not cut, sack and sell, which the member for Clayfield was the architect of when in power.

The government has committed to providing a \$50 annual rebate to Queensland households over the next two years. The asset ownership dividend forms part of our \$300 million affordable energy package, which will continue our strong record of delivering stable prices. The \$50 rebate will reduce a typical annual residential bill by around 3.2 per cent, noting that the actual outcome will be based obviously on an individual's household consumption. Customers will not have to apply for this rebate as it will be automatically applied to their electricity bills. The rebate will become available in January 2018 and customers will start seeing it applied to their bills in the first quarter in 2018 depending on their billing cycle.

The Labor government is providing immediate relief for Queensland households by our price pledge. The government has committed to keeping electricity prices for the typical household and small business customers below average inflation over the next two years. The price pledge forms part of the \$300 million affordable energy package, which will continue our strong record of delivering stable electricity prices. The pledge will protect Queensland householders and businesses from a volatile National Electricity Market and give them certainty about prices. The price pledge builds on our action to date to reduce pressure on the network and wholesale prices. The government will use every available lever to keep prices under control and to continue to deliver on our commitment to stabilise energy prices.

I will now deal with how business will benefit from the Palaszczuk government's new \$300 million Affordable Energy Plan.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Sunnybank—ALP) (2.30 pm), continuing: Before the lunch break I was highlighting some aspects of the Palaszczuk government's Affordable Energy Plan, but I want to go back to this point. It was Labor that stopped Tim Nicholls from selling our electricity assets. Only the Palaszczuk Labor government can cap electricity prices and provide a \$50 rebate for all Queensland households. Independent modelling shows a typical household's annual electricity bill could be as much as \$146 lower this year and \$210 lower, or 16 per cent, for the year 2018-19 because our assets remain in public hands.

Before the lunch break I stated that the Palaszczuk government is providing immediate relief for Queensland householders by our price pledge. The government has committed to keeping electricity prices for a typical household and small business customers below average inflation over the next two years. The price pledge forms part of our \$300 million energy affordability package which will continue our strong record of delivering stable electricity prices. This pledge will protect Queensland householders and businesses from a volatile National Electricity Market and give them certainty about prices. The price pledge builds on our actions—

(Time expired)