




Speech By
Steve Minnikin

MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

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ADJOURNMENT

Chatsworth Electorate, Cost of Living

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (6.46 pm): I rise this evening proudly to give a voice to the hardworking residents of the Chatsworth electorate in this House. For too long Queenslanders have been used as a cash cow for this do-nothing government. Instead of trying to balance the books, the Premier and her government continue to take, take and take. Queenslanders are now paying more than ever for electricity, with prices increasing by 109 per cent compared to 10 years ago. Electricity costs are now increasing faster than the rate of inflation and wages growth. This is simply unsustainable.

Results of my recent Chatsworth's biggest survey showed almost 95 per cent of respondents are concerned about Queensland's growing cost of living. That is right—95 per cent. I have been told by locals that they are now being forced to make the decision of turning on the air conditioner at night or buying certain items on their shopping lists. They have to choose between the two. More than 60 per cent of locals have been forced to cut items due to the rising cost of living. This is not a little issue. This is big, this is widespread and this needs to be addressed.

It is clear to me and many residents of the Chatsworth electorate that this do-nothing government is not making life easier for Queenslanders. It is not adequately lowering the cost of living, and it is making it harder for Queenslanders to get ahead. No—this government would rather enforce impractical, ideological policies with very little care for the battling Queenslanders.

This Labor government has continued to treat electricity as a secret tax by stealth—firstly, when it loaded our energy businesses with billions in debt; secondly, when it introduced an unrealistic renewable energy target; and, thirdly, when it gave with one hand simply to take with another—typical Labor sleight of hand. What sort of cruel and twisted government offers a \$50 rebate one day to simply lug Queenslanders with a \$200 increase the next?

The constituents of Chatsworth have quite simply had enough. Almost 90 per cent of residents are concerned at this government's attitude towards debt. Indeed, they believe this government should start lowering the cost of living and reducing debt. Almost 87 per cent of residents also want to see the car rego freeze reintroduced. I am proud to say as a member of the LNP that we will do just that. Car registration has already increased by more than \$50 in two years, making Queensland one of the most expensive states in which to own and run a car. The residents of Chatsworth are tired of debt growing and growing while this government continues to falter. Queenslanders deserve better. My good burghers in the great electorate of Chatsworth deserve far better.