



Speech By  
**Tim Nicholls**


**MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 6 September 2017

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Electricity Prices**

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.59 pm): In trying to make sense of what the member for Rockhampton said, the word 'rant' rather than 'rat' came to my mind. Absolutely nothing of any form of enlightenment or understanding was displayed, except that the member for Rockhampton viciously likes to eat rats and the member for Rockhampton just likes to shoot them. That was about the only thing that came out of that speech. Meanwhile, businesses and families in Rockhampton continue to pay more under this government's failed electricity prices.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, members. The Leader of the Opposition has the call.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** We on this side are not anywhere near as precious, Mr Speaker. This is a government of cons, costs and crisis. Just ask the families and small businesses who are paying more every year because this Premier presides over the highest power prices this state has ever seen.

Today I visited a small, family run business at Carina in the electorate of Chatsworth. Blue Line Dry Cleaners has operated since 1957 and has thrived for most of those 70 years. In the past two years its power bill has gone up by 20 per cent. According to the owner, Wayne Wilson, in the past two years the bill has gone up and he is worried about keeping on his staff and about paying the rent. Power is now his second highest bill, after staff.

Labor members might spin around like ballerinas, blaming everyone but themselves, but Queenslanders will not be fooled. Queenslanders know who to blame for the record high power prices. The rot started with Anna Bligh and Andrew Fraser, when they wrote to the federal government and said, 'We want to charge more because the finances in the state are kaput.' They wanted to charge more for five years to prop up their failing budget. Now those opposite are at it again. Wholesale power prices are up by 70 per cent under this government, because this government uses power bills as a secret tax on businesses. While the taxes and prices rise, the trains do not run and the services are not delivered.

*(Time expired)*