




Speech By
Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 10 October 2017

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Energy Supply

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.28 am): We have to say 'welcome back' to the member for Yeerongpilly. Suspended four months and reinstated in one hour—that tells us everything we need to know about this Labor government and this Labor Premier. This do-nothing Labor government has hit a new low and the lights are clearly off with Queensland Labor. What has it come to when the Palaszczuk government is telling Queenslanders to ration their electricity use and set their air conditioners at 26 degrees?

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is misleading the House. That is an outrageous claim.

Mr SPEAKER: That is not a point of order.

Mr SEENEY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Frivolous points of order are an offence against this House. That is clearly a frivolous point of order to interrupt the Leader of the Opposition. The minister knows that that is not a point of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Callide. By way of penalty, I invite the Leader of the Opposition to start again.

Mr NICHOLLS: This do-nothing Labor government has hit a new low, and the lights are clearly off at Queensland Labor. What has it come to when the Palaszczuk government is telling Queenslanders to ration their electricity use and set their air conditioners to 26 degrees? That is like this energy minister's solution for the M1: do not use it. That is what this minister talks about.

Under Anastacia Palaszczuk, Queensland families and businesses are being told, 'The problem with the power bills is that you are using too much of it, so turn it up or turn it off.' It is all because of Anastacia Palaszczuk's and Labor's rush to renewable energy. They want to tell Queenslanders to limit their use, instead of making sure there is an affordable and reliable power supply. The comrades from central planning at Trades Hall are firmly in charge.

I say to the Premier: because of her record high power prices and the secret energy tax, there is not a family or a business in Queensland that is not already doing everything they can to conserve their power use. Anastacia Palaszczuk and her government start pointing the finger—

Mr HINCHLIFFE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. That is the second occasion on which the Leader of the Opposition has not used the appropriate title for people in this House. As you have ruled on many occasions, that is something that should be done to pay due respect to all members of the House.

Mr SPEAKER: I urge the Leader of the Opposition to refer to members by their appropriate title.

Mr SEENEY: Mr Speaker, the Leader of the House is quite wrong in his point of order. The conventions of this House allow a member to refer to another member by their proper name or their position. The Leader of the Opposition has done exactly that.

Mr SPEAKER: I think we will move on. The Leader of the Opposition has the call. Standing order 244 states—

(7) A member shall only refer to another member by their parliamentary title or electoral district.

Mr NICHOLLS: The Premier points the finger, telling Queenslanders they need to do even more. Labor got the three wisest men running around together, and the best they could come up with is electricity rationing. Queensland is not undergoing the blitz at the moment. Can members imagine Christmas morning with the family, gathered around the dinner table, praying someone does not flick the switch on their power somewhere? Can members imagine raw turkeys, a green pool and the sheets soaked with sweat? That is not an energy plan; that is an admission of failure. Poor old Santa gets hot beer and warm milk. That does not go with the cookies! Queenslanders simply want a reliable energy source which will be accessible when they need it most.

What do we know about the power price legacy of the government led by the member for Inala, the Premier? Fact: Queenslanders are now paying the highest power prices ever in Queensland under a do-nothing Labor government. Fact: Queensland generates only four per cent of its power through renewables; the rest of it comes from coal. Fact: Labor has admitted today that we could face similar blackouts to South Australia because of its headlong, reckless rush to renewables while it abandons—

(Time expired)