




Speech By
Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 24 October 2017

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.31 am): There is one thing that the member for Yeerongpilly will not cut and that is his email account or his ties with the CFMEU and the filthy money that he takes from them every day. When it comes to energy, what we have seen from this Premier and this do-nothing government this week is not a plan; it is yet another sham. It is a desperate policy from a desperate government at the eleventh hour desperately trying to make up for three years of power price pain with a cash splash it cannot afford and it cannot explain. No-one is buying what the Premier is selling. This election eve electricity con has been laid bare. It is nothing more than a transparently hollow, vote-buying pitch to be racked up on the state's credit card, and that means every Queenslanders will pay.

Offering struggling Queenslanders 96 cents a week to vote for Labor is as tragic as it is laughable. However, here is the kicker: despite all the Premier's protestations, pronouncements and plans, Queenslanders' power bills will still go up under Annastacia Palaszczuk and Labor. Under an LNP government, Queenslanders will do lots better than 96 cents a week shaken off their power bills like loose change. For three years Queenslanders have borne the brutal brunt of Labor milking our electricity generators as a secret tax collector and now they are going to throw us some crumbs back. Of course, the biggest problem of all in this electricity plan sham is that they have already spent the dividends, so where is the money coming from? It has already been spent. They cannot spend it twice.

The Premier does not have an answer. She does not have one today. She certainly did not have one yesterday. The member for Yeerongpilly could not even explain on radio yesterday how the program was going to work. He could not even explain his own policy. This is a Premier who has led a government that has gone about taxing Queenslanders more through our power bills to pay down Labor's runaway debt and yet we are still heading towards an \$81 billion black hole. Clearly, that has not worked out too well. Queenslanders need long-term reform, not more rebates and subsidies. That is how this do-nothing Labor government got us into this mess in the first place.

If the Premier were serious about lowering bills, she would adopt LNP policies. If she were serious she would scrap the 50 per cent renewable energy target, she would commit to a new, clean coal-fired power station and she would freeze electricity bonuses. If this Premier is so confident of her electricity plan, she would call an election immediately and let Queenslanders decide.