




Speech By
Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 26 October 2017

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Electricity Prices

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.33 am): Thank you, Mr Speaker.
Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, I know you are enthusiastic, but the Leader of the Opposition has not even started yet.

Ms Trad interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, you will be warned if you persist. The Leader of the Opposition has the call.

Mr NICHOLLS: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Quite clearly, this is a government that has no power plan for Queensland—no power plan other than warm beer, green swimming pools and sweat soaked sheets; no power plan other than an aversion to reliable baseload electricity and an idiotic, ideological speeding towards a 50 per cent renewable energy target that will risk plunging Queenslanders into darkness; no power plan for Queenslanders other than this: 'Here, we will give you all of that and'—wait for it—'96 cents a week'—96 cents a week! With that sort of return Queenslanders can confidently turn to half a Mars bar for all of their energy needs. That is all they will get. In refusing to recant from its renewables rush, this Labor government, with its sham of an energy plan, is killing businesses, costing jobs and hurting Queensland families everywhere. As it doubles down, Queenslanders are headed for double the pain—the power bill pain of today and the power bill pain of tomorrow. We know it is coming because the independent experts keep warning us.

The Queensland Productivity Commission report into electricity pricing, ordered by this government, told us Labor's sham of a plan would cost taxpayers \$18 billion. This week the Climate Change Authority revealed Labor's policy would see jobs slashed as coal-fired power stations closed en masse, with household power bills soaring by another \$200 a year. This is a government that for over three years has clearly never governed for Queenslanders. Lacking the experience or knowhow to get anything done, it has clung to the self-interest of political survival of appeasing inner-city green voters and, in order to keep filling the Labor coffers with grubby union money, it has allowed itself to be owned by those unions lock, stock and barrel. We saw it again today with reports that the energy minister and the Premier's now deputy chief of staff have been caught out in yet more private email discussions with ETU officials over more shady pay deals.

The price of a government controlled lock, stock and barrel by the unions is that Queenslanders have never paid more for electricity. Queenslanders deserve so much more than a leaderless, do-nothing government of warped priorities. I say to the Premier: just name the election date and let Queenslanders have their say.