




Speech By  
**Andrew Powell**

**MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE**

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**ELECTRICITY AND OTHER LEGISLATION (BATTERIES AND PREMIUM FEED-IN TARIFF) AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (12.32 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Electricity and Other Legislation (Batteries and Premium Feed-in Tariff) Amendment Bill 2018. I will restrict my comments to two aspects: one pertinent to the bill as it was introduced and the second to the amendments that have been proposed by the minister in relation to the Queen's Wharf development.

I pick up on the comments made by previous speakers about embedded networks. I understand that I have at least one embedded network in the electorate of Glass House. That is at the Twin Cedars villas in Beerburum. Recently I was contacted by just about every single resident of the Twin Cedars lifestyle villas, particularly by James and Carol Fitzgerald, John and Kaye Kempson, Graham and Noela Vonhoff, and Geoff and Gail Hancock. They are all very concerned with what they perceive is a very sudden and unexplainable change in their arrangements.

As is the case in many of these situations, just about every resident in those villas has solar on their roof and until recently were receiving a rebate for such. Suddenly they received notification from management—I have all respect for managers of such villas, but I seek some clarification here—that they could no longer do so. I will use James and Carol Fitzgerald's case as an example. They have had panels since 2015. They have been receiving the rebate since and can demonstrate that on correspondence that I have and that I have subsequently provided to the minister. Their energy supplier is ERM. It goes through the organisation that runs the villas and they supply that house. They have received a letter from management that that will no longer be the case. That letter states that the owner—

... wishes to advise that the Park Owner will no longer credit home owners for solar power that is fed back into the park infrastructure.

The park owner is not obliged to reimburse home owners for power generated on the site. Where excess solar power is generated, the home owner will not receive a charge or credit.

I have written to the minister on behalf of the residents seeking some clarification of this. Perhaps as part of the debate of the bill and the legislative changes we are making today the minister and his department can clarify the situation. I look forward to receiving a response either today, if we have a situation where this bill is not guillotined because of the motion moved on Tuesday, or in subsequent correspondence from the minister clarifying that for the residents of Twin Cedars at Beerburum.

I now turn to the amendments the minister flagged this morning, particularly those that relate to the Queen's Wharf Brisbane Act 2016. I think we need to be very clear that this is another sign of the incompetence of those opposite. To show that, I need to provide a time line of what occurred. The Queen's Wharf Brisbane Priority Development Area was declared on 28 November 2014—yes, during the LNP's term in government. It included land located between the Brisbane River and George Street and between Alice and Queen streets, with a riverfront connection to the Goodwill Bridge. Obviously, the election then occurred in January 2015 and there was a change of government in February 2015.

Interestingly, the preferred proponent and project concept were selected in July 2015 by Labor. Yes, the process started under the LNP the previous year with expressions of interest, but the design and project concept were finalised in July 2015. On 28 January 2016 the Queen's Wharf Brisbane PDA Development Scheme was approved by the Queensland government, having been put out for public consultation and notification between August and September 2015. Basically, since that time Labor has had over two years to amend the PDA declaration to include what the project concept now includes—that is, a bridge from Queen's Wharf over to South Bank. They could have done it at any time after July 2015. That is more than two years—in fact three years.

Previously, when then acting planning minister Miles issued a media release about this on Christmas Eve a couple of years back, he tried to blame it on the LNP government and suggest that we had not done our job in declaring the PDA. Hopefully that time line clearly shows that this has all occurred under the Palaszczuk Labor government. Any suggestion that what we are rushing through today is to clean up anything that was done by the LNP government is completely and utterly false. If anything, this again demonstrates just how lazy, slow and incompetent those opposite are. We have a situation where Labor is quick to drive our great state's economy into the ground, but it is certainly not rushed when it makes self-labelled urgent changes—urgent changes that then minister Miles mentioned back on 24 December 2016.

It is like inviting six friends to a dinner party but only setting the table for four and then sitting on that situation for two to three years. It is not acceptable. Your friends would be pretty grumpy if that was the case. It just goes to show that minister after minister, including the Deputy Premier, did not have a handle on what was going on at Queen's Wharf. They have shown a level of incompetence and now we have to sit here and sort out this mess. It is not good enough that we now have to deal with urgent amendments—amendments that the LNP opposition saw only this morning—when we have known about the problem since July 2015. It is not good enough that this is rushed in as an amendment to a bill that has nothing to do with planning or the Queen's Wharf development. It is not good enough that this has not been scrutinised by the committee. It is not good enough that this debate will be guillotined and that this may in fact affect a number of other people.

I can assure those opposite that the LNP will be supporting these amendments because we know that they should have happened in the first place. Again, I say to the people of Queensland: know that you have an incompetent Palaszczuk Labor government that cannot get the simple things right and will continue to do so for as long as it is in government.