




Speech By
David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (3.56 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the committee's report on the consideration of the Auditor-General report. I do so because it reveals what we all know—that is, that energy in this state has been used as a cash cow. It has been used as a milking cow by this government for poor, unsuspecting consumers. At a time when they need support from their government, energy has been nothing more than a milking cow.

If members want proof, there are two lines that will give that proof. First of all, income from these generators has gone up by over 20 per cent. Worst of all, profits have risen by 45 per cent. A 45 per cent increase in profits is nearly \$2 billion extra. The government says that it is giving some money back to help struggling householders, but I will tell the government how it can help struggling householders: do not whack them in the first place and do not use energy as some sort of secret taxation measure. That is what the government should do.

There is another reason why I want to make a contribution. I heard the committee chairman rise and say it was a 'complicated market'. I am always wary when politicians say that things are complicated, because 'complicated' sounds a lot like justifying gold plating. He says it depends on where you stand as to whether or not you support the gold plating. I will tell the House where I stand. I stand on the side of the consumer.

Do members know what is not in the Auditor-General's report or the committee report? The name Noemi is not in the committee report. Noemi is a pensioner I met when I was running for this seat. She told me her story of sitting in her house in Runaway Bay at six o'clock at night and not knowing whether or not to stay there or go to bed. She did not want to go to bed because it was too early, but she did not want to turn the light on because she did not know whether she could afford electricity. This is a real person in a seat that I represent.

I will tell the House what else was not in the Auditor-General's report. There was no mention about the Paradise Point Bowls Club, which have seen their energy bills rise month on month, year on year, and they do not know whether they will be a viable entity because of the cost increases they have suffered.

When I hear those opposite talk about things like CleanCo I say to them to get on board with what the Leader of the Opposition has said, and that is around allowing for the ability of our generators to invest in renewables. They are somehow stitching up a con job like we saw the other day when they said they are going to save consumers by creating a generator, but they will not actually say what it is going to cost. It would be akin to going to a mechanic, who says, 'Guess what? I can save you on your petrol if you put a new engine in the car, but I won't tell you how much the engine will cost.' It is an almighty con. This report lifts the lid on an absolute con job, a con job that says profits in this state have risen by 45 per cent in a year.