



Speech By  
**Michael Hart**


**MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH**

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Record of Proceedings, 22 March 2018

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

**Electricity, Installation**

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (2.19 pm): Over the past few weeks I have received numerous phone calls and messages from members on this side of the House about an issue that seems to be blowing up on the Gold Coast, the Sunshine Coast and in other areas. It relates to changes that were made on 1 December by the federal power of choice legislation that changed the national energy rules. That legislation put in place a meter provider, so a third person is involved in installing electricity to new building sites or replacing old meters.

There seems to be a lack of communication between the retailer, which will organise for a meter to be installed, and a distribution company such as Energex or Ergon in regional areas. They can no longer talk to each other. That is the problem. This federal legislation has introduced a third entity into this mix. If people need a new meter box at a building site, they have to contact their retailer, which contacts a meter provider. That meter provider then contacts the distribution company. Between the three of them they try to organise when they can come to the site, with the person who wants it, to put on the power.

At the moment, particularly on the Gold Coast, we are seeing new building sites that do not have any power available. In fact, some builders on the Gold Coast have reached the stage at which they have bought or hired generators. They are rotating those generators around their building sites so that their building sites can have power. There have even been instances where houses have been constructed through the use of a generator. People have been waiting to move into those houses but they do not have any power installed. I am not a builder but I imagine that a house could be built in 12 weeks but, apparently, people cannot get power installed to that house in that time.

Today I have written to the minister in this regard, asking him what the government is doing to assist. I realise that it may be quite complicated for the government to get involved in this matter, because it relates to a deal between three groups, but when any laws change at any level of government that affects people in this state this government has a responsibility to fix the problem. I ask the minister to come back to me as soon as he can—and he should come back to every member in this place because I am sure that other members are getting phone calls and information into their offices about this issue. Now that members know what it is about, we need information from the minister with regard to how to fix it.