




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Budget, Electricity

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (2.43 pm): Yesterday we saw a prime example of Labornomics when the Deputy Premier and Treasurer of this state handed down the Queensland budget. What do we see? Taxes are up, debt is up, jobs are down and infrastructure spending is down. Let us have a bit of a look. The people of Queensland have woken up to Labor governments, and that is why we saw only one in four Queenslanders vote for Labor at the federal level. That sent a number of the members opposite into a real panic. They hit the panic button last week and they started making all sorts of accusations about their own ministers. I would like to talk about a couple of the ministers that I shadow.

We all remember a couple of years ago when I spoke about the hidden tax that the Labor Party uses in relation to electricity. In the 2016-17 budget we saw that \$482 million was supposed to be made from generators. That was revised to \$892 million, but it ended up being \$1.24 billion. There was an extra \$759 million in hidden electricity tax foisted onto this state and we are seeing it again. I table extracts from the Budget Strategy and Outlook.

Tabled paper: Documents titled 'Budget Strategy and Outlook 2017-18', 'Budget Strategy and Outlook 2018-19' and 'Budget Strategy and Outlook 2019-20' [959](#).

We have seen a budgeted figure of \$1.9 billion this year for generators, but now we are seeing a revised figure of \$1.442 billion, an increase of \$433 million. This government keeps saying that they are doing something about electricity prices. They should tell the foundry industry in particular about this, because I have been to just about every foundry in Queensland over the last year and they are all struggling. They cannot get a meeting with this minister. He is ignoring any of their attempts to get a meeting with them; however, those industries have been audited. What is the solution that the government is looking for for those industries? They have said, 'The best outcome for you is to go and buy a diesel generator.' They said, 'Go and buy a diesel generator because we will not sell you electricity at an appropriate rate.' They are also telling our farmers and irrigators exactly the same thing. We have irrigators out there who are going back to diesel generators because this government cannot sell them electricity at a reasonable price. Something has to be done about this. This government is completely responsible for the price of electricity in this state. They can crow about a few people getting subsidies and lower prices in some parts of the regions, but they have to do something before they send business in this state broke.

(Time expired)