



Speech By  
**Ali King**


**MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE**

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## **PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT**

### **Cost of Living**

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (2.40 pm): Right around the world, the cost of living is a big challenge right now, and Queensland is absolutely no exception. In my electorate of Pumicestone, families and retirees are facing cost-of-living pressures that are significant. Our government is working hard to support them because that is the Labor way. One key measure is our \$175 energy rebate which is coming off local people's bills as we speak. I got mine recently. Under the Palaszczuk government, families in Pumicestone will have received a total of \$575 in energy rebates by the end of this year. Because we kept our energy assets in public hands, we can use dividends to support Queenslanders. I and every Labor member will always back public ownership of our energy assets 100 per cent.

There is no stronger choice than keeping Queensland energy assets in Queensland hands. Our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan guarantees that we will keep them in our hands into the future. With Queensland energy generated in Queensland, we will not be vulnerable to future price shocks every time some foreign dictator tries to hold the world to ransom on energy.

With our budget in surplus, we can keep supporting families with the cost of living. I want everybody in our Pumicestone communities to know about the cost-of-living support that is available to them. Our Smart Savings website makes it easy to find the rebates and cost savings that we are entitled to in one place. Pensioners checking Smart Savings will see that they get free glasses every two years, free dental services, cheaper transport, \$372 a year off their electricity bills, \$200 a year off their rates, rental support of various kinds, free travel and even money off their car and boat rego. Under our federal Labor government, they will also be able to get cheaper medicines in certain circumstances.

For families there is also a lot happening to support them with cost-of-living pressures. Families in Pumicestone can look forward to free or discounted kindy next year thanks to our Palaszczuk government's kindy saver program. I give a shout-out to our Bribie Island Community Kindergarten which does such a great job caring for our youngest Pumicestonians. Under the Albanese Labor government, by 2026 families will be able to access six full months of paid parental leave. Federal Labor is also making early childhood care cheaper for many local families by lifting the maximum rebate to 90 per cent and giving extra discounts for more than one child in care as well as extending the subsidy to out-of-hours and vacation care—something that families very disappointingly missed out on under the LNP. Labor backs everyday families facing the cost-of-living pressures in our communities right now every single day of the week. With state and federal Labor governments working together, those benefits will only double.