



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 30 November 2022

**MOTION**

**Palaszczuk Labor Government, Cost of Living**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (5.56 pm): I am pleased to rise in the House tonight to support the amendment moved by the Minister for Energy. I am also pleased that the entire LNP party room is here this evening, because they are in for a real treat: a speech from me about something that matters.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** What a party the LNP is. It does not matter whether they are in government at a local, state or federal level; they never miss an opportunity to hack into the finances of working families. At the federal level, Scott Morrison rorted and wasted billions of dollars—sending inflation through the roof and forcing the Reserve Bank to respond by jacking up interest rates. Australians are now paying thousands of dollars in penalty interest—a recurring reminder of Liberal waste and profligacy.

At a council level, LNP mayor Adrian Schrunner has slugged Brisbane residents with rate increases of up to 7.3 per cent because he is greedy and, as we hear today, he simply cannot manage public money. Another LNP mayor, Karen Williams, has jacked up rates in her community in the Redlands, with an average increase of 4.7 per cent.

At a state level, the Leader of the Opposition is idle. Campbell Newman set ordinary people back years with his attack on working families, and at every step of the way the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition sat around the cabinet table crowing about it. They hurt Queenslanders with a 3½ per cent increase to fees and charges—well above the rate of inflation. No war in Europe, no pandemic—just a government that hated working Queenslanders. They slugged ordinary families with a higher emergency services levy—nearly \$188 million ripped out of the pockets of hardworking Queenslanders. They jacked up insurance duty by up to \$900 million, including taxing the family home.

The Leader of the Opposition himself and the crowning glory in the member for Broadwater's campaign to punish working Queenslanders was when he personally tried to introduce a \$1 billion disaster levy on Queensland families. Those opposite closed power stations to drive up power prices, hitting households and businesses to fatten up the assets for sale, and what happened along the way? They jacked up electricity prices by 43 per cent. It was a government that had total disregard and disrespect for the financials of ordinary Queensland workers.

The contrast with Labor could not be clearer. Labor governments always govern for families who are doing it tough, who are disadvantaged and who are struggling to make ends meet. That is why our government is providing \$6.8 billion in concessions to help with transport, housing, education, water and energy costs. That is a rise of 10 per cent on last year, because the one thing that every member of this House knows is that Labor always supports working families and Labor always keeps taxes low.

Under Labor, Queenslanders pay on average \$643 less in tax each year than those in other states and \$1,063 less than the average person in New South Wales whose wallet is being gouged by Dom Perrottet and his Liberal National Party government.

Let me say it again: taxes are always lower under Labor. Along with our fundamental values, there is a strong driver of why we are keeping the cost of living low, and that is because of Labor's superior economic management. What have we heard recently? The lowest unemployment rate in Queensland history delivered by a Labor government. Let us compare that to the 14,000 workers sacked by the Leader of the Opposition and the deputy leader and their LNP cronies. What cost-of-living pressures do the LNP think they were living under when 14,000 people lost their jobs? Let me say this clearly: Queenslanders know that they can trust Labor to manage the budget, to manage state finances, to give them a job and to keep the cost of living low.