




Speech By
Jessica Pugh

MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

Record of Proceedings, 30 November 2022

MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Cost of Living

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (5.15 pm): I rise tonight to support the motion as amended. Let me start my contribution with housing, which is a hot topic in my area for reasons I will expand on shortly. The recent Housing Summit—which members of the House, including members of the opposition, were invited to attend as delegates—clearly identified the impact of the recent weather events and the February floods that hit Brisbane along with many other local government areas really hard, particularly in my community. In my community literally overnight we lost somewhere in the vicinity of 500 previously inhabited properties—some for days, but many for months and I expect some for years. That is 500 homes just in my community. That is one electorate here in Queensland, but there are countless other communities like Ipswich and Gympie which were also really badly impacted. We all recall a few years ago the Springfield storms which were declared a major disaster. A good friend of mine, my former EO, lost her house in that storm. It was completely trashed. The roof was ripped off. It took her over a year to move back into her property. In total, I understand around 2,000 homes were impacted by that storm, a single weather event, and those occupants were displaced for varying periods of time. Literally overnight those houses were ripped out of the housing market.

Queensland is a state that I think experiences way more than our fair share of natural disasters. When we experience an event like the February floods we lose hundreds—sometimes thousands—of houses literally overnight. Events like this are really difficult to account and plan for, but we have the mighty Queensland Reconstruction Authority. People deserve to have a secure roof over their heads, and that is why this government has committed \$741 million alongside the federal government—so that is fifty-fifty state and federal funding—for the Resilient Homes Fund, which is helping people rebuild their homes after these horrible natural disasters. I will not reflect on the amount of time it took to get former prime minister Scott Morrison to sign up to this package. We are glad he did. It is helping people get back on their feet.

Under this plan we are helping Queenslanders put a secure roof over their head with a resilient retrofit, raising their property or, in 500 extreme cases, a buyback where the property cannot be raised or made flood resilient. I take this opportunity to remind all flood impacted Queenslanders that if they have not yet applied for the program they should do so now. We want to help every Queenslander have a safe and secure roof over their head. That is why I am proud that when I go out door knocking in my community I get to speak to some of the home owners who own properties that were raised up after the 2011 floods and made flood resilient. It has made a huge difference. When I spoke to those home owners, they told me that this time their flood recovery was minimal because when they received that grant last time they—

Mr Hart interjected.

Ms PUGH: Let me tell you about the cost of living, member for Burleigh. When your house is flooded, cost of living is absolutely awful. Thank you for that interjection.

These government grants change people's lives for the better forever. If you want to talk about policies affecting housing costs, you need look no further than this huge investment in ensuring Queenslanders have a permanently safe and dry roof over their heads. It is a life-changing grant, not just for these families today but for every family who lives in that house forever after because those houses are going to stay in the property market and they will not be getting repaired every 10 years like they are now.

While we are on the topic of lowering the cost of living, do members know what drives power bills right down? Solar energy. Who put a stop to that? The LNP under Campbell Newman. Under the Newman government, to keep building towards a renewable future, all the Newman government had to do—at least for a while—was to keep the policy settings from previous Labor governments. Queensland in 2012 had only started its journey towards renewable energy. We were barely at five per cent. Under an LNP government, thanks to Campbell Newman, that is exactly where we stayed. That is exactly where we stayed under the Newman government.

Mr Hart interjected.

Ms PUGH: Do not just listen to me, member for Burleigh. Let me quote from the *Courier-Mail* from less than six months after Campbell Newman was elected. I am not going to have time to quote all of this so I will table it as well.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 2 July 2012, titled 'Campbell Newman Government axes Queensland solar energy scheme, nation's largest' [2017](#).

The article states—

Australia's biggest solar energy scheme is dead in the water, torpedoed by the withdrawal of funding by the Newman Government.

The State Government is pulling \$75 million out of a renewable energy power project, effectively killing off up to 400 jobs.

Shame.