




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

Record of Proceedings, 30 November 2022

MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Cost of Living

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (5.46 pm): I rise in support of the amendment to the motion. I say to the member for Burdekin that I am more than happy to talk about the here and now. I will give him a bit of a lesson further on in my speech if he wants to hang around and listen to it.

I am proud to be part of a government that is delivering good jobs, better services and protecting our great Queensland lifestyle and to be part of a government that is taking real action on the cost of living. I am proud to be part of a government that puts people who are struggling, who are at risk and who need extra support into the focus of all decision-making because these are the people who rely on Labor governments, who need a strong Labor government to protect and support them. That is what Labor governments do. Just like my great-grandfather Percy Pease and his work with the Forgan Smith government, we look after the community and ensure there is opportunity for all. That is why I am so proud to support this year's budget and our government's economic strategy.

Like many Queenslanders, I have known what it is like to be on a minimum wage. I started work at the age of 16 and I earned \$16 a week. I have also run a small business. I know what it is like to feel the cost of every bill cutting close to home. I grew up in a household where we had very little. We had next to nothing. My dad worked two jobs and my mum was an Avon lady. We had nothing, but there was always someone who was worse off than us. That is what my mum and dad did, because they had good core Labor values: they looked after people who were worse off than themselves. They strived every day. Might I add they strived each and every day in their limited capacity to remove the Bjelke-Petersen government and its oppressive regime and thankfully they were alive to see him go. I know the difference that concessions can make—between getting by and falling behind—as do many members of the community.

This year's budget includes \$6.8 billion in concessions for Queenslanders. Last week I hosted a Seniors Morning Tea which 120 of our local seniors attended. Each of them was so thrilled by the access they had to concessions. That made a difference to their life: their registration, their rates, their electricity and their ambulance. Do honourable members know what? They could not have survived if this opposition had cut them, which is what they were intending to do. Imagine a world where they impacted on the elderly in our community—the people who built our economy, who built Queensland, who went to war for us, who went out and fought for our great state—yet you marginalised and were going to punish each and every one of them.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Comments will come through the chair.

Ms PEASE: That is not a proud legacy to leave and you should be hanging your head in shame. That is a disgraceful legacy.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Lytton, direct your comments through the chair.

Ms PEASE: Our \$6.8 billion in concessions is a more than 10 per cent increase on last year's figure. I have seen the difference that our government's strong action on the cost of living is making on the ground. We are taking real action on power prices, made possible by our public ownership of electricity. Our government has spent over \$1.8 billion since April 2018 to provide householders with \$575 in electricity rebates, with a \$175 cost-of-living rebate coming off Queensland power bills this year alone. A gentleman in my electorate came up and thanked me for that rebate. We are not collecting dividends from government owned electricity providers so that they can invest in new energy and put downward pressure on electricity prices.

I am proud that our government has a strong economic plan to guide Queensland through this difficult inflationary climate, just as it guided Queensland through the challenge of COVID-19. We have seen the results of this plan in Queensland: strong economic performance and ongoing economic recovery. This plan has seen credible, tangible action from our government, in contrast to those in opposition. The LNP have no credibility when talking about the cost of living—none whatsoever. Their plan to reform Queensland devastated communities across the state and devastated my community.

From the shores of my electorate in Moreton Bay to Far North Queensland, their government did not care about Queenslanders and their struggles to make ends meet, and they made that very clear by the sacking of 14,000 public servants. In fact, it felt like the LNP Newman government took every opportunity to impose greater costs. I spoke in the House earlier today about those costs and the impacts the LNP government had on Queensland. I would hang my head in shame before I stood up and spoke about the cost of living and what those opposite are doing, because the LNP has a terrible record in government.