




Speech By
Patrick Weir

MEMBER FOR CONDAMINE

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Electricity Prices

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (2.43 pm): I cannot say that I am surprised by today's headlines that Queenslanders will pay more for their energy bills once again. This is in direct contrast to statements made by Labor's energy minister, who has said on more than 130 recent occasions that energy prices are going down. It was repeated again this morning. The Premier and her ministers are out of touch if they think Queensland families are paying less for electricity than they used to. I challenge the minister to find me any working Queensland family with a cheaper electricity bill now than a couple of years ago.

It is as clear as day that the energy minister is more interested in political spin than he is in acknowledging or, better still, addressing Queenslanders' cost-of-living crisis. This spin is typical of the Labor Party, and Queenslanders will not forget federal Labor's commitment to reduce electricity prices by \$275—a commitment the new Prime Minister quickly walked back from. Queenslanders will not forget that the Premier signed up to federal Labor's gas price cap, which has undermined any investment in domestic gas in this state.

The government has been publicly called out for not adequately maintaining its energy assets. It is something that even the unions have put on record. The Queensland Competition Authority and the Auditor-General have confirmed that the explosion at Callide C was a factor in driving up electricity prices. This completely contradicted what the minister promised at estimates when he said that the explosion at Callide would have 'no net impact on consumers' electricity prices' after the generator broke down. Today marks two years since the first Callide explosion, and Queenslanders still do not know when the offline generators will be restored. They also do not know how Genuity's collapse as the equity partner is affecting the restoration of the offline generators and the provision of stable and affordable electricity. I have asked the Premier, the Treasurer and the energy minister multiple times in this House to explain whether the state will be purchasing the remaining 50 per cent. Disappointingly, but not surprisingly, the Premier and her ministers have remained silent.

While the Premier and Labor's energy minister remain caught up in their own chaos and crisis, Queensland families will continue to pay the price with higher power bills. The government's only solution is subsidies, but this is failing to solve the fundamental problem, that energy prices are skyrocketing under this government's watch. The Labor Party is taking money out of everyone else's hip pocket and putting it back into only some people's back pocket. The minister owes it to Queenslanders to be honest and up-front, rather than the current rhetoric of weasel words and false promises. Subsidies have to be paid by somebody. Somebody is paying the price.