




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

Record of Proceedings, 29 March 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Cost of Living; Waterford Electorate, Easter

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (7.15 pm): I often speak about how proud I am to represent the people of Waterford, but I am also immensely proud, as you know, Madam Deputy Speaker Lui, to be the ministerial champion for the Torres Strait. As the world has emerged from COVID and endured the economic impacts of Putin's brutal war in Ukraine, we know that cost of living has been front and centre in the minds of Queensland families from my electorate of Waterford right up to Cape York and the Torres Strait. That is why I, along with some of my ministerial colleagues, travelled to the Torres Strait last week for the cost-of-living summit to hear firsthand from locals about the challenges they face.

To put it in context, when I go to my local Coles in Meadowbrook, the cost of a tub of butter is \$6.50. On Thursday Island residents are paying nearly \$10 for the same product. We heard about the skyrocketing fuel, freight and power prices, the need for more housing upgrades and marine infrastructure challenges. Mayor Yen Loban said, 'We only want what other Queenslanders take for granted,' and I agree. That is why we have delivered \$80 million in joint federal and state funding for marine infrastructure, \$10 million for new houses in the region, \$3 million to help families reduce power usage, and millions more in support, but we know there is more to do. I want to thank the member for Cook for her relentless advocacy for her electorate, and I look forward to continuing the work to support her constituents.

In my own electorate, I have been focusing on getting more information out to families about how our government is helping tackle the cost-of-living pressures. The energy and gas rebate which will save eligible families \$372 per year is just one of a number of savings available to families. We also have programs like Kindy for All that can save families up to \$3,500 per year on childcare costs. Whether it is rego concessions, free TAFE or FairPlay sports vouchers, our government is investing in Queenslanders.

Finally, to celebrate the start of the school holidays and the Easter break, I will be hosting the inaugural Waterford community Easter egg hunt this Saturday. We are expecting a large turnout. Registrations have already filled up, with over 100 families coming along. We have even managed to lock in a visit from the Easter bunny. I would like to thank Joanna and the staff at Happy House Kindergarten and Early Learning Centre for offering to help out and the team at my Waterford electorate office, Anthony, Ben and Emma. It will be a wonderful day and I look forward to spending it with the amazing parents and children of my community.