




Speech By
Ali King

MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE

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MOTION

Cost of Living, Select Committee

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (5.48 pm): What a privilege it is to follow the member for Everton. In that solid five minutes of bellowing, not once did the member for Everton acknowledge his role in attacking Queenslanders' cost of living when he cut—

Mr Stevens interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member for Mermaid Beach, you are warned.

Ms KING:—our public housing builds by 90 per cent, forced elderly people out of their homes if they dared to take a holiday and sold off our public housing stocks. Shame on the member for Everton!

Mr MANDER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member has made a misleading comment. I will be writing to you, Mr Deputy Speaker, to highlight that matter.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. There is a process to follow if you believe someone has misled the House. I ask members not to use points of order to attempt to make speeches in relation to that. There is a process to follow and it is clearly outlined.

Ms KING: Along with the rest of the LNP, of course the member for Everton does not like to be confronted by his own record while in government.

Mr MANDER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at that and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence. I ask the member to withdraw.

Ms KING: I certainly withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I just asked you to withdraw.

Ms KING: I withdraw, Mr Deputy Speaker. Locals in my community tell me that their No. 1 issues are cost of living and how they are going to pay their bills. That is why our government is listening and acting. We have frozen public transport fares and rego. We have delivered free kindy and free TAFE—not selling off TAFEs—saving lots of families I represent thousands upon thousands of dollars a year. We are building our awesome satellite hospitals that will support Queenslanders with their cost of living by delivering free community health care closer to home.

We are delivering record cost-of-living relief to lower every household's bills and put more money back in their pockets. We are able to do this because we made good choices—not Strong Choices—and we have stood up for Queenslanders. We kept Queensland's energy assets in public hands even when the weak LNP tried to sell them off to make a quick buck. We stood up to the big supermarkets, and we are holding them to account with a real inquiry—not like weak opposition leader David Crisafulli

and the LNP who are doing a favour to their big business mates by actively trying to water down our inquiry.

Our progressive coal royalties are funding our massive infrastructure pipeline that will lower household bills while the spineless LNP leader will not come out and admit his plan to cut our royalties. Our nation-leading electricity rebates mean Queenslanders have the lowest electricity bills—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member, you have used unparliamentary language. I ask you to withdraw.

Ms KING: I withdraw. Because we kept our energy assets in public hands, we have been able to deliver those huge rebates on people's energy bills—\$550 for every single household; \$1,072 off for our seniors, Health Care Card holders, veterans and people with a disability. That is 600,000 Queenslanders who will receive \$1,072 off their energy bills this year, including so many—even the majority—of people in my communities in Pumicestone. Seniors in my communities notice that rebate on their power bills. They notice that our Miles government has reduced those bills thanks to our strong leadership. Our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan will transform our energy market and provide cheaper, cleaner energy for every Queenslanders into the future—all made possible by the strong leadership on this side of the House.

We do not need an LNP premier who will take sides with the big supermarkets and big banks against Queenslanders. Pumicestone locals are paying more and more at the check-out every single week. When they hear that those same supermarkets are paying less to farmers, they are outraged. It is not fair. If the Leader of the Opposition will not stand up to the big supermarkets as our Premier is, he should not pretend to be on side of Queenslanders.

Pumicestone locals are also telling me that they are noticing the banks are refusing to drop interest rates as quickly as they hike them up, leaving them with less money to spend on essentials. Families are hurting because of that decision and because the big banks pumped up those interest rates and are keeping them high, all while the spineless LNP is caving in and doing whatever—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock.

Ms KING: I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Ms KING: This is all while the weak LNP are caving in and doing whatever the big banks, the big supermarkets and Peter Dutton demand of them. We do not need more weak posturing from the LNP; we need strong leadership. Members of the LNP love to talk about power prices but never acknowledge that under their government they saw the biggest increase in power prices in the history of Queensland—a massive 39.4 per cent—putting massive pressure on Queenslanders right across our state, whereas under our Miles Labor government Queenslanders have the lowest household energy bills in the national electricity market. The LNP cannot keep blaming electricity prices or water prices to provide a smokescreen for the big supermarkets.

Who can forget the LNP's ultimate attack on cost of living when they sacked 14,000 workers across Queensland? First, they cut the services they relied on and then they sacked them. Members opposite cannot talk about cost of living when their record is sacking 14,000 workers.