




Speech By
Ali King

MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE

Record of Proceedings, 16 April 2024

ADJOURNMENT

Cost of Living

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (7.07 pm): When out doorknocking in Pumicestone every single week, I meet with locals who are struggling to cope with rising cost-of-living pressures. Dion is a local single dad whom I met whose rent has doubled. He told me that sometimes he skips meals to make ends meet and that he cannot afford to go to the doctor. Jamie has several teenage boys and, as they have gotten older, their power usage has gone through the roof and that has raised her bills. Susan used to travel from Caboolture down to the Golden Circle outlet on the north side to buy her groceries as they were cheaper, but now she cannot afford the petrol to drive there so she is shopping at Coles instead and her grocery bills are much higher than they were.

Stories like Dion's, Jamie's and Susan's are why we have taken real action to support households facing the rising cost of living. We have limited rent increases to once per year to put downward pressure on rents and make rents more predictable for renters. We have made more rental assistance available to more people and we have closed loopholes to prevent dodgy practices like rent bidding. Under our progressive coal royalty regime, every Queensland household is getting a massive \$550 off their energy bills and seniors are saving well over \$1,000. We launched our supermarket pricing inquiry to crack down on dodgy grocery pricing practices. We are building satellite hospitals in the heart of our communities so that locals can get 100 per cent free public health care close to home.

However, locals like Dion, Susan and Jamie need even more cost-of-living relief, so that is what I and I know all of our colleagues will be pushing for in our next state budget. The biggest risk to households in Pumicestone, though, is not just the rising cost of living—

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member for Gregory, you are under a warning. You can leave the chamber.

Whereupon the honourable member for Gregory withdrew from the chamber at 7.09 pm.

Ms KING: However, the biggest risk to households in Pumicestone is not just the rising cost of living; it is the prospect of an LNP government. Every aspect of our cost-of-living support is at risk under the LNP. The last thing that Dion, Susan or Jamie need is empty promises from the LNP's right-wing priorities pamphlet.

The LNP have been clear that they do not support our progressive coal royalties. Their right-wing priorities are mining profits, not lower household bills. When the LNP leader says there is a war on landlords, what he will do is bring back rent bidding and strip away our annual limit on rent increases. Renters would be much worse off under an LNP government. When the LNP leader says that there is a war on resources, what he will do is cancel our progressive coal royalties so that households cannot

get their Cost of Living Rebate because there will be a \$9 billion hole blown in the Queensland budget. Households will be much worse off under an LNP government. When the LNP leader said that satellite hospitals are not fit for purpose, it is because what he would do is sell them off straight down the line. Queenslanders cannot afford the LNP.

(Time expired)