



Speech By  
**Brent Mickelberg**


**MEMBER FOR BUDERIM**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 February 2024

## ADJOURNMENT

### Weather Events, Electricity Supply; Wise, Mr P

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (5.58 pm): I am sure we can all agree that this summer has been hot and humid, so imagine the discomfort of having the power cut off in your home right in the thick of it. This is what happened in suburbs of Sippy Downs and Palmview in my electorate two days in a row. It happened around the same time of the day during the peak of a ripper heatwave. Hundreds of homes experienced power outages for hours at a time in the late afternoon and early evening right when families were trying to make dinner, put babies and toddlers to sleep and settle in for the night. After making some inquiries, Energex advised the outage occurred during the 'peak of excessive heat and humidity, and customers seeking relief resulted in extremely high electricity use'. Put simply, the electricity network could not cope. Local electricity transmission infrastructure has not kept pace with our population growth and that lies solely at the feet of this state Labor government.

Despite Minister de Brenni's assurances that the power grid was coping with the increased demand, it seems he was being selective with the truth—selective with the truth because while there may have been sufficient power being generated the transmission network was failing. Queenslanders should be able to cool down their homes on a hot day. They certainly should be able to switch on the lights, keep their freezer cold and use the oven and stove to cook dinner with food from their cold fridge. What concerns me is that many residents in parts of Sippy Downs and Palmview rely on electricity for communications purposes. They are in a mobile phone black spot, so they need the power to run their wi-fi. When the power goes off, not only are they hot and in the dark but they are also at risk of being unable to call for help when it is needed.

It has been nearly a thousand days since Callide went out and it is still not fixed. Not only is it not fixed; the minister responsible did not even have any idea what happened until two days ago. How can Labor be trusted to keep the lights on for families in Sippy Downs and Palmview when this is the standard that is accepted by the Premier? It is 2024 and we live in Queensland. Families should be able to rely on the power being on, especially in the middle of a heatwave.

While I am on my feet I want to offer my sincere condolences to the family and friends of Mr Peter Wise. Peter was a well-known community advocate and farmer, safeguarding a parcel of land—a farm—in the middle of suburbia in the electorate of Buderim. Sunshine Coast locals know the area well, driving along Wises Road to buy figs directly from the farm. Peter was 82 when he passed away after a short stay in hospital late last month and is survived by his wife, Ivy. Peter was a staunch advocate on behalf of the Sunshine Coast and he will be missed by many. On behalf of the Buderim community, I want to acknowledge Peter's considerable contribution to the Sunshine Coast. Vale, Peter Wise.