




Speech By
Bruce Saunders

MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

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CHEAPER POWER (SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL)

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (7.30 pm): Thanks to the Miles Labor government, the Premier and the Treasurer, Christmas has come early. It is Christmas in July across this great state because the Treasurer has done something the LNP only dream about: he has taken on the coal barons. They are all there with their cigars and Bentleys, and the Treasurer has taken them on and put the money back into the pockets of Queenslanders. He is a grinch to the coal barons; he will not get a Christmas card this year. He will get a lot of Christmas cards from the residents of Queensland, particularly Maryborough, who are very happy with this \$1,000. We heard the other side. What did the member for Gympie say about a cash splash? The people of Maryborough are very happy with this money. I have been on the streets talking to the people of Maryborough. I have been out working on the streets, and they have been telling me how they are excited to get this \$1,000 because it will be a bonus to them. They will be able to do things they thought they would not be able to do because now they will not have an electricity bill until 2025. How great is that! Do we now call the Treasurer 'Santa Claus'? He has really made a lot of people in Maryborough excited about this.

Then we have another \$300 from Treasurer Jim Chalmers and the federal government. How great is that! All we hear is whingeing from the other side about progressive coal royalties. We know what will happen. If they are elected the risk for Queenslanders is that that money will go back into the pockets of overseas shareholders. That money will go to Bentleys, cigars, eggnog and wonderful Christmas gifts. The Miles Labor government puts the money back into Queenslanders' pockets. We are putting it back. Our people—not overseas companies, not overseas people—can maybe go and have a cup of coffee and dinner. That is what they can do because of the savings they are getting from the Miles Labor government. I was reading before about the big risk from over there. What did we hear?

Mr Walker: I don't know. You've got a rabble over there.

Mr SAUNDERS: A bit of rabble alright! There is more than rabble; they are rattling the can now for the mining gurus. That is all they are going to be doing to make sure they are being looked after. Do not worry about ordinary Queenslanders.

Mr Walker: They're paying their legal bills.

Mr SAUNDERS: No, we cannot do that. What about the member for Clayfield?

Mr Walker: What about him?

Mr SAUNDERS: You can see him now at the Queensland Club with all the mining barons walking around in their three-piece suits with cigars hanging out of their mouths. He said the government could not afford to pay all consumers an electricity rebate when household electricity prices rose by 22.6 per cent. The member for Clayfield tried to cut electricity concessions to 435,000 seniors and pensioners. How is that? Do not forget that he was the treasurer. He is the man who sat around that table with Campbell Newman. He was the man who tried to cut concessions to 435,000 people.

Mr Walker: He's Santoro's man.

Mr SAUNDERS: I take that interjection; he is definitely his man. The big risk for this state is the LNP. When they say 'show them the door', the biggest threat for this state economically and moving forward with the Big Build and development is the LNP. I heard some of the comments here tonight. You would think the world is going to collapse and fall in because we are giving ordinary Queenslanders—we are talking about mums and dads and pensioners—a fair go. We are giving them \$1,000 back plus the rebate, so all up about \$1,600. All we have heard from those opposite is, 'We can't do it.' I ask everyone to close their eyes: can you imagine what they would do if they got into government? I can tell you that the LNP as it is now would make Campbell Newman look like a great premier because the cuts they have in place and ready to go are going to hurt Queenslanders.

Mr Walker: That's a big call.

Mr SAUNDERS: It is a big call. We had the member for Chatsworth talking about pruning and tough love. I do not want his tough love. The people of Maryborough do not want his pruning or his tough love. He can keep that in his own garden. I commend the bill to the House.