




Speech By
Christopher Whiting

MEMBER FOR BANCROFT

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Cost of Living, Electricity Rebate

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (2.46 pm): To the people of Deception Bay: congratulations, because you are each getting \$1,000 off your household electricity bill. To the residents of North Lakes: congratulations, because each household is getting \$1,000 off its electricity bill. To my neighbours in Burpengary East: congratulations, that is \$1,000 off each household electricity bill. To the residents in Rothwell: congratulations, you are getting \$1,000 off your electricity bill. To all those great people in Mango Hill: you are getting \$1,000 off your electricity bills. What a great measure.

As the Treasurer said this morning, this is the biggest rebate on electricity in Australian history by any Australian government, and only the Labor government could do it here in Queensland. That rebate will be coming in next financial year starting on 1 July, so I would suggest that everyone look at their bills after that date because they will see the rebate coming off them. For pensioners the news is even better. Eligible pensioners will get \$1,372 off their electricity bill. That is absolutely amazing. For many of them that means they will not be paying electricity bills next year and into 2025. How is that for an amazing achievement by a government? This rebate follows on from the \$550 we advanced to every household this financial year. What a great track record by a government. Who could do this? Not the mob opposite.

Small businesses will see a \$325 rebate flowing through to them, and that follows the \$325 rebate we gave this financial year which was matched by the federal government for the same amount. We are also helping out small businesses with the cost of living. The question is: why are we doing this? It is not even a question. We know why we are doing it. It is an incredibly high priority for the Miles government to help out with the cost of living. We are delivering cost-of-living help for Queenslanders. It is a huge priority. We will keep on doing it—free TAFE, free kindy and now, for pensioners, free electricity. You cannot beat that record.

How are we doing it? There are two reasons. We own the electricity assets—the majority of the generation infrastructure and the transmission lines. We own it—the people of Queensland own it—so we are making sure that they get money back for that. The other reason we can do it—and I acknowledge the minister—is because of progressive coal royalties. What a great thing for a government to do. It is great to see that the people of Queensland, who own those assets, are getting money back for those assets rather than it going to multinational companies. Congratulations to the Treasurer for making sure that those multinational companies pay their way and help give Queenslanders rebates for electricity.