




Speech By  
**Christopher Whiting**

**MEMBER FOR BANCROFT**

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**CHEAPER POWER (SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL)**

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (9.23 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the largest cost-of-living relief measure in Australia delivered by the Miles government. We are putting money back into Queensland households. We are helping ease the cost of living for Queenslanders. That is all at risk if there were ever an LNP government back in this state. It is very clear that the LNP does not support rebates. We have heard the member for Gympie describe it as a cash splash, as a waste of money. In 2013 the member for Clayfield said the LNP government could not afford to pay all Queensland households a rebate. As the Treasurer said this morning, they were saying, 'You get nothing. No rebates for you.' This was at a time when electricity prices were going up, yet what did they want to do when electricity prices were 'too low' in their opinion? According to the member for Nanango, the answer is you close down electricity turbines to raise the price. There is no doubt that if the LNP were ever in government they would push up power prices. They would rip away rebates.

Labor provides these rebates because we own the assets. We own the coal that is supplying the coal royalties. These are the same coal royalties that the LNP would doubtlessly roll back, and they told the multinational coal companies that they could take that promise to the bank. We also own the electricity assets—the poles, the wires, the major generators. These are the same assets the LNP wanted to sell in 2014. Let us not forget that they actually voted against the public ownership of these assets. Let us focus on the rebates from the Miles government. There is \$1,000 to each Queensland household. Add to that \$300 from the Albanese government.

**A government member:** Thanks, Albo!

**Mr WHITING:** Thank you, Albo; I take that interjection. On top of that, there is \$372 for vulnerable Queensland households. As we have heard many times today, many Queenslanders will not pay an electricity bill until 2025. Let us not forget the \$325 for small businesses. Once again, thanks go to the federal government for doubling that to \$650.

We know these rebates are working. We heard the Treasurer say this morning that we are the only state where the number of hardship payment plans is going down. That is a great achievement by this government. I want to finish by saying that Queenslanders deserve cheaper energy bills, and only the Miles government will deliver that. We are working hard to do the right thing for Queenslanders, and cost-of-living relief is our No. 1 priority. We are delivering the largest cost-of-living relief package in Australia, and that is why I commend this appropriation bill to the House.