




Speech By
Corrine McMillan

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 21 May 2024

CHEAPER POWER (SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL)

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (9.55 pm): I rise to contribute to the Cheaper Power (Supplementary Appropriation) Bill 2024. Like the Minister for Education and member for Bulimba, I too have been moving around my community in recent months speaking to thousands of residents. The No. 1 issue they raise with me is the national cost-of-living increases. Whether it be water, electricity, groceries, sporting goods, their rent or increased house repayments due to rising interest rates, the cost of living is hurting local families in my electorate of Mansfield. They understand that these factors, many of which are global, are impacting on their local cost-of-living issues every day.

Our local community centre has been inundated with requests for food and fuel support. That is why local families were thrilled with the news by the Miles Labor government pre budget of the \$1,000 cost-of-living rebate to be paid to every local household from 1 July. This is only possible because we own our electricity assets and infrastructure and we have been taxing the big mining companies a coal royalty tax, a methodology wholly supported by my community. In fact, many local residents have suggested to me that we should be taxing them more. They know who owns this asset and they understand its worth.

On Tuesday night, the news that the federal Labor government will add \$300 to the electricity rebate for every household further delighted many locals as a large number of households will not pay a cent for electricity well into 2025. This means the local families can pay some money off their credit card, buy their youngest a new pair of football boots or celebrate their child's birthday at the movies. The news was a welcome relief to many in my community such as Paul of Wishart, who is keen to fix a few things around the house that he had been putting off; John, who is keen to invest a little more money into his beekeeping hobby; or Ashley and Joel, who are raising a young family on 1½ incomes. The amount of \$1,300 will help immensely with the general daily costs of running their households. We are also extending the \$372 Queensland electricity rebate, meaning vulnerable households will see up to \$1,672 off their electricity bill. There is also \$325 for small businesses, matched by the federal government, bringing the rebate to \$650. That is very much appreciated by the local businesses in my community.

The LNP cannot support rebates because they do not support coal royalties. They will cut direct cost-of-living support and take money away from Mansfield families. The Leader of the Opposition and the LNP will sell our power assets, our TAFEs as they have done in the past and our satellite hospitals. He will hand billions back to his mining company mates and make cuts to our rebates as well as to health and education. He cannot be trusted with Queensland's future. The LNP say they support this bill, but they fundamentally do not like rebates. In 2013 the LNP's treasurer, the member for Clayfield, said the government could not afford to pay all consumers an electricity rebate when household electricity prices rose by 22.6 per cent that year. The member for Clayfield tried to cut electricity concessions to 435,000 seniors and pensioners and had to backtrack after community outrage. As the local principal at the time I remember the community outrage in my electorate of Mansfield.

Only Labor truly understands the needs of our local families. The Miles Labor government is committed to taking pressure off our local families. Only Labor will deliver for the hardworking people of my electorate of Mansfield and my community knows it. I commend this bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Ms McMillan, adjourned.