



Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**


**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

---

Record of Proceedings, 14 February 2024

**MOTION**

**Miles Labor Government**

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (5.57 pm): Talk about running out of puff! She had one minute left on the clock to defend her government's legacy. What would that legacy be in Rockhampton, member for Keppel? The worst ambulance ramping outside of the south-east corner at 43 per cent. Why is that important for the member for Keppel? She is the assistant health minister.

I will move on to the motion. Seriously, I cannot wait to get Bree James in this place as the member for Barron River. The current member for Barron River was sitting there saying, 'What did we do? What have we done?' Obviously the answer to that is 'nothing'. Not only has he done nothing for his community; he has done nothing to fix up his webpage either. We thought we should google it. That is right: Craig Crawford MP is still the 'Minister for Child Safety, Minister for Seniors and Minister for Disability Services'. I am happy to table that.

*Tabled paper:* Extract from webpage, printed 14 February 2024, titled 'Craig Crawford MP State ALP Member for Barron River' [190](#).

Obviously the length of time he spent in Melbourne did not give him enough time to look after his community, fix up his webpage and deal with the problems that are facing Far North Queensland. It is an absolute disgrace. Let's get to the issues at hand. On top of the fact that they have a ghost of a member in the member for Barron River and the member for Cairns, what are the issues facing the Far North region?

**Mr Mickelberg:** Under-representation.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** That is exactly right, because the member for Cairns and the member for Barron River do not believe there is a cost-of-living crisis going on in this state. They do not believe electricity prices have gone up. They need to get out and talk to their communities. They need to talk to the local business owners in the heart of the Cairns electorate who sat down with me with tears in their eyes because their electricity bill had gone up by 25 per cent. Yet on the news that night—

**Mr Healy** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Talk about 'come in, spinner'. The member for Cairns has just acknowledged that Andrew Fraser, the former treasurer, and Anna Bligh, the former premier, stitched up Queensland for those energy prices, and he knows it. I am not going to talk about what happened over a decade ago because that is all the member for Cairns has got to defend his legacy.

The price has gone up 30 per cent. Tell that to the business owners who are trying to sell coffee. They had tears in their eyes because their rent had gone up and their power bill had gone up by 30 per cent. What did the member for Barron River say that night on the news when he was trying to defend why the Callide Power Station had been offline for something like 970 days? He said, 'Well, that's got nothing to do with power prices going up.' Come on! Seriously! Not only has the Queensland Auditor-General said it has made power prices go up; the Queensland Competition Authority said power prices have gone up. Every expert in the industry has said that power prices go up, yet these jokers

think, 'There's nothing to see here with power prices.' People cannot afford to pay their rent. Why are they renting? Because under this government we have the highest rate of non home ownership. Come on! What have those members been doing?

I had to sit in this House and listen to the member for Cook talk about health services. Come on! How long has it been since a baby has been able to be born in Cooktown? I can tell you. Cooktown was the 38th maternity service shut by Labor. Shameful, shameful, shameful. What did the LNP do when we were in power? We opened Cooktown maternity. Thank you, Lawrence Springborg. We paid nurses because the doctors and the nurses were not being paid under the former government. The member for Cook sits there and proudly talks about her government's record in health. I say to the member for Cook that it is shameful that mums have to travel down to Cairns weeks in advance, with all of the flooding and everything that went on with the roads not being fixed. What a shameful record. I say reopen the Cairns—sorry, reopen the Cooktown maternity centre—

**Mr Healy** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** He can laugh about it, but say that to the constituents of his electorate who have to put up with everyone going to Cairns to give birth.

*(Time expired)*