



Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 21 May 2024

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Cost of Living

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (2.36 pm): It is very obvious that the member for Bundamba spent way too much time living in Melbourne and not in Queensland when who sold the assets? Labor sold the assets. I visited HQPlantations in my electorate this week. It was flogged off by the Labor government. It is obvious that the minister over there does not listen in this chamber because the Leader of the Opposition has said on numerous occasions, including in debate on a bill only last sitting week, that they are not for sale. We know that the minister does not listen to Queenslanders because it is obvious that if the minister were listening to Queenslanders he would know that Queenslanders are struggling with the cost of living.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member for Logan and member for Gregory, cease your quarrelling.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Why are they struggling? Because after 10 years of this incompetent government their power bills are through the roof. You have to ask why. The one major reason, apart from the incompetent government over there, is that Callide has been offline for nearly three years. On the 25th of this month—in four days time—it will have been offline for three years. Why? We are all asking that. We know Queenslanders' power bills went up 20 per cent last year—the highest increase in the nation.

Forensic engineer Sean Brady, who is meant to be doing the report, would probably like to release the report. You have to ask why it cannot be released. We know from the farcical nature of what went on in the Federal Court just yesterday—four hours under questioning—who was stopping Dr Sean Brady from answering. It was not him. It was CS Energy's legal counsel because they know that the government is running a protection racket around what happened at Callide. I am thankful each and every day that no-one was killed in that horrific explosion. I know that workers have since left Callide because of the stress every time they think about that horrific day. I say to the government: release the Sean Brady report. Be up-front and honest with Queenslanders about what went on at Callide and why our power bills have gone through the roof.

Last week I was in Cairns with Bree James. She will be an amazing member for Barron River if we are so lucky to get there. I sat with Emily and her son Reef, who live in a one-bedroom unit. Their last quarterly bill was \$900. They sleep together. They consume as little energy as possible. Poor Emily is struggling with the cost of living. She blames the Palaszczuk-Miles government because she knows that nothing better has happened in the last 10 years, so why should they believe a government that has so far lost priorities. Minister Enoch stood up and delivered a ministerial statement in this House today but failed to explain to Queenslanders what she did with \$126,000 of their money. I call on the

minister to publicly say to the people of Queensland what she did. We all know that ministers should and must travel overseas to benefit Queensland. What value did Queenslanders get from Minister Enoch's \$126,000 trip? I call on the minister to stand up in this parliament and explain that to Queenslanders like Emily, who is struggling to pay her electricity bill.

It was interesting to hear the Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water say something like—and I will check the record—'We need to see more Labor politicians in Canberra.' Was he referring to the member for Ipswich? We know that the factions over there are all fighting. Today the Minister for Health has proven that she simply cannot be the premier of this state. We know the Premier cannot be the premier because we know the factions are juggling each and every way, so no wonder the member for Gladstone is telling the member for Ipswich to run to Canberra. We need to show Labor the door in '24.