




Speech By
James Martin

MEMBER FOR STRETTON

Record of Proceedings, 21 May 2024

CHEAPER POWER (SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL)

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (7.12 pm): Talking and listening to locals in my community, I want them to know that cost-of-living relief is my No. 1 priority. Locals in my community have told me over and over again that times are tough. I have advocated for help with household bills. We know that mortgage payments, rents, groceries, insurance and bills are going up. It is true to say, members, that times are tough, but, if you think times are tough now, they will be tougher under the LNP. People cannot pay their bills if they have been sacked or made redundant. If our energy assets are privatised, prices will go up and we will have no ability to provide rebates. If health services are privatised, it means worse services and higher prices. It means a longer wait in the ED under the LNP.

If the LNP gets a chance to build nuclear reactors in your suburb, it means more expensive power. That is why I support the Cheaper Power (Supplementary Appropriation) Bill—a bill that will deliver cheaper power bills to Queenslanders by providing \$1,000 to every Queensland household on 1 July. It will assist Queensland families struggling with global inflation and cost-of-living pressures. Cost-of-living relief is a top priority for the Miles government. Our rebates are only possible because we are making multinational mining companies pay their fair share. Our energy rebates are funded through progressive coal royalties, because on this side of the House we believe that Queenslanders deserve to share in the wealth of our state. Those opposite have refused to support coal royalties, making it clear that they do not support cheaper power bills or investment in roads, police, schools or hospitals for that matter.

These \$1,000 energy rebates belong to Queenslanders, which is why they are targeted as a single one-off credit on power bills from 1 July. I welcome the recent announcement from the federal Albanese Labor government and Treasurer Jim Chalmers that provides Queenslanders a further \$300 on top of our rebate, which means that every Queensland household will get \$1,300 off their energy bill. Even more than that, seniors, pensioners and eligible households will receive a \$1,672 rebate. Many households will not have to pay a cent on their power bills for the rest of the year. These are the biggest power savings Queensland families have ever seen.

We are also providing support for small business with a \$650 rebate next financial year. As a result of our rebates, Queensland households and small businesses continue to pay amongst the lowest prices for electricity in the country. Only the Miles Labor government has a plan to ease pressure for families and hardworking small businesses. Whether it is the resources below the ground or our publicly owned energy assets, we believe that all Queenslanders deserve their fair share.