




Speech By
Jessica Pugh

MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

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CHEAPER POWER (SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL)

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (7.00 pm): We know Queensland families are feeling the pressure of increased household bills, and the Miles government is here to help. The Miles Labor government is committed to taking pressure off Queenslanders—our families, our seniors, our young people and everybody in between. That is why we are delivering the biggest cost-of-living relief package in Queensland history, including more than \$2.5 billion in cost-of-living relief through electricity rebates, that is, \$1,000 off every household bill and a further \$300 thanks to the Albanese government, and \$325 for small business matched by the federal government bringing that rebate to \$650. We are also extending the \$372 Queensland electricity rebate for vulnerable households, which will mean that they see up to \$1,672 off their electricity bill. For many of those households it means they will not see an electricity bill until well into 2025, if at all that financial year. These rebates will apply to electricity bills from 1 July 2024. Our budget will prioritise cost-of-living relief to help lower Queensland household bills. This can only be delivered by a Labor government because of our government's commitment to progressive coalmining royalties and because we own our assets.

What can families and Queenslanders do with that extra money? In my community it means that families will be able to keep their kids in team sports. Fees for a lot of clubs in my community are around the \$500 mark. If you are a family of two, this money could be the difference between your kids getting to play soccer this winter or not. In my community, at the local state schools families will be able to afford to send their kids on school camp to Canberra or to Cairns, instead of saying, 'Sorry, mate, we can't afford it this year.' People may be able to afford a big down payment to get solar or a battery installed, if they do not have it already, to ensure that they continue to drive their electricity prices down once this rebate is finished.

As I said earlier, this fantastic rebate sits alongside other fantastic cost-of-living measures like free kindy, free TAFE, free apprenticeships and FairPlay vouchers for Queensland kids to participate in sport or the many seniors rebates that are available. I encourage people to check those out on the cost-of-living website because all Queenslanders should know what is available to them. This rebate will be a game changer for many Queensland families and I commend it to the House.