




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

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CHEAPER POWER (SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL)

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (9.19 pm): ‘I could cry with gratitude for the power bill support from the government. It helps us so much.’ ‘Thank you, so much appreciated.’ ‘This will help my family. Our home loan repayments have just gone up so much. This will help so much.’ ‘Well done, Miles government. This will help so many households.’ ‘I can afford to use my heater this winter.’ ‘It will really help me and my neighbours.’ ‘This means that I can afford to buy my grandkids a birthday present.’ ‘The rebate has really helped me pay my rent.’ These are just a small sample of the comments I have received from constituents and business owners either face to face, in text messages or on Facebook.

I am absolutely thrilled to be standing here in support of the Cheaper Power (Supplementary Appropriation) Bill 2024. This bill might be small in pages but it is a mighty bill and is extremely well received by baysiders. This bill is providing urgent cost-of-living relief through rebates applied to power bills and is a direct result of the new Miles government’s progressive coal royalties. We as a government want to provide this relief urgently to ensure that the rebates cannot be revoked or reduced.

This means that eligible households will now receive \$1,300, thanks to the Albanese government’s \$300 energy bill relief. The Miles government has a longstanding policy of providing additional support for vulnerable Queensland households, which means a further \$372.20 for pensioners and Health Care Card holders. The rebate will automatically be applied in a lump sum from 1 July 2024. Embedded network customers, such as manufactured homes and caravan parks—which I have in my electorate—are eligible for the cost-of-living rebates, with the operator simply notifying the retailers of the number of households in their network. There is further support for small businesses, with a further \$325 for eligible businesses. The great news is that this includes sporting clubs, community organisations, microbusinesses, social enterprises and charities.

What this means to baysiders is that we are all going to benefit. For example, a small business operator, if eligible, will likely receive the rebate at their business and then at their home and then at the sporting club where their kids play sport. Again I say what a mighty bill this is. All of this just reinforces that we as a government are committed to taking pressure off families, like those families from the bayside, my neighbours and my friends.

We have taken on the multinational mining companies to take \$1,000 off the power bills of all Queenslanders. We now have, as I said, further support from the federal government. In addition to this immediate relief, we have a long-term vision to give Queenslanders the skills they need for the jobs that they want. We know and we have heard that the LNP will sell our power assets. They will sell our TAFEs, as they have tried to do in the past. Those opposite have yet to commit to progressive coal royalties. The leader of the LNP will hand billions back to mining companies and make cuts to our rebates as well as health and education. We know that the LNP cannot be trusted with Queensland’s future.

On behalf of the many people I have spoken to, I want to absolutely support this mighty bill because I want to ensure that that birthday present can be bought. I thank the Treasurer and the Premier because that is what baysiders have asked me to do. I wholeheartedly support this bill because this is the Labor way.