




Speech By
Kim Richards

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

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CHEAPER POWER (SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL)

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (8.39 pm): I rise to support the Cheaper Power (Supplementary Appropriation) Bill 2024. In my conversations with Redlanders last weekend, at the shopping centre or at the markets, or last week while doorknocking and calling locals to make sure that particularly our seniors are getting the right level of rebate, nobody is not excited to be receiving at a minimum \$1,000 off their electricity bill from 1 July. I do not think—

Ms King: Very happy in Pumicestone.

Ms RICHARDS: Queenslanders are very excited about receiving that \$1,000, because it will make a huge difference in what are really challenging times, whether talking about grocery prices or the mortgage interest rates of the big banks that are putting pressure on households. This \$1,000 will make a huge difference. For my seniors community and those on concessions, the extra \$372 is massive. I thank the Treasurer for coming out to the Redlands and hosting a cost-of-living summit with me. He heard firsthand some of the challenges for people in the Redlands and what they look like. I am really pleased that this \$1,000 is coming and that we can ensure we can as quickly as we can put that money back into the budgets of our families and our seniors. That is good news.

I do not think anybody can step away from the fact that we can only do this because of our progressive coal royalties. They are Queenslanders' resources. Queenslanders rightly deserve to benefit and not see those profits of the big mining companies sent overseas. We should be using our resources to support Queenslanders and Queensland families. On this side of the House we will never step away from that. We will never shy away from making sure that Queenslanders benefit from Queensland resources and not overseas parties. I do not think there is a Redlander in my patch who does not 100 per cent agree that Queenslanders should be benefiting from Queensland's resources and that we should be the beneficiaries of great coal prices. I say to the Treasurer again; 'Thank you very much for coming out to the Redlands.'

When we talk about electricity prices and about risks, I want to talk about nuclear power. The candidate for Oodgeroo is clearly on the public record in terms of her burning desire for nuclear and what that looks like. Every piece of science backs in the fact that nuclear is the most expensive form of energy. There is no doubt about that. When we talk about catastrophic events—and we have heard a number of contributors talk about the Callide event—imagine if that catastrophic event involved a nuclear power plant? That is the real risk that the LNP poses. As I said, Amanda Stoker is clearly on the record around her support of nuclear power. We know that nuclear needs water. We know that Redlands has probably one of the biggest coastlines in the state of Queensland when we take into account our islands. The real threat to energy prices is the LNP and its members' passion for nuclear. Dutton is clearly on the record in terms of where his support is.

I am really proud of this bill. I support it 100 per cent. It is the Miles Labor government that is doing the right thing by Queenslanders to make sure we put money back in our families' pockets. I commend this bill to the House.