



Speech By  
**Hon. Lance McCallum**


**MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA**

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Record of Proceedings, 21 May 2024

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**TAFE**

 **Hon. LR McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (2.30 pm): Labor is proud to tell Queenslanders what we stand for and that we will work hard each and every day for a Queensland where every family is helped to pay the bills and to make ends meet, where every student can gain skills without being saddled with crushing debt and where our essential services stay publicly owned. We will always put people before profits—right where they should be. This vision is not a dream. Under the leadership of our Premier it is a promise that Labor can, will and is delivering.

We understand the struggles that Queenslanders face every day because we are talking to them—the anxiety of opening bills, the worry about their children’s future and the fear of losing control over our essential services. We want Queenslanders to know that we hear you and we are taking real action. We are not afraid to fight for what is right—which is why we have taken on multinational mining companies. The Miles Labor government is making them pay their fair share and delivering the biggest energy rebates in the nation’s history. These rebates are not just numbers on paper; they are a lifeline for families who are already stretched to their limits. We will keep our energy assets publicly owned, ensuring that profits are reinvested back into our communities, not into the pockets of private overseas shareholders.

In contrast, what do the Liberals and Nationals actually offer? They want to rip our assets away from us, selling them to the highest bidder—reckless privatisation that will lead to skyrocketing bills and poor services.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order, members!

**Mr McCALLUM:** We know this because we have seen it before. When the LNP gets its hands on our public assets, the people of Queensland suffer. We saw it again only weeks ago when they voted against laws for public ownership in this very chamber—

**Mr Boothman** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, member for Theodore!

**Mr McCALLUM:**—making it crystal clear that they will take the billions that Labor puts into the pockets of Queenslanders and put them into the bank accounts of big corporations. This will not happen on Labor’s watch. We will fight every day for everyday Queenslanders to keep our promise.

In addition to the immediate electricity bill relief, we are backing Queenslanders with the skills that they need for the jobs that they want. The new Miles Labor government is dedicated to maintaining public ownership of our TAFEs. This ensures that every aspiring Queenslander seeking to improve their skills can access—

**Mr Boothman** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Theodore, I have warned you several times to cease your interjections. You have ignored that. You are now warned under the standing orders.

**Mr McCALLUM:** This ensures that every aspiring Queenslander seeking to improve their skills can access high-quality education without the burden of overwhelming fees. Publicly owned TAFE is a cornerstone of our communities, providing opportunities for all regardless of background or financial circumstances. A Liberal National Party government would dismantle our public TAFE system and slam the door on countless Queenslanders who simply want a fair chance at a better future. The LNP would rob our young people of the chance to pursue their career dreams and aspirations, jacking up course fees, closing campuses, sacking teachers and bringing free TAFE to a dead end.

The choice before us is clear: a Queensland Labor government that fights for the people, a government that believes in public ownership and delivering real cost-of-living relief; or the risk of the LNP stripping away our assets, hiking up our bills and selling off our future to the highest bidder. We have seen their track record and we know the pain it causes. Labor is backing the path of fairness, of opportunity and of a government that puts people before profits. Together we can ensure that our essential services remain ours, that education remains accessible and that every Queenslander can afford to live with the dignity of work. It is not political rhetoric; it is a very real reality. The Liberal National Party will sell our power assets and our TAFEs. They will hand billions back to mining companies and make cuts to our rebates and our free TAFE. They cannot be trusted with Queensland's future.

*(Time expired)*