




Speech By  
**Hon. Leanne Linard**

**MEMBER FOR NUDGE**

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### **CHEAPER POWER (SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL)**

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Innovation) (8.16 pm): I rise to support the Cheaper Power (Supplementary Appropriation) Bill. Of course we know that Queenslanders are struggling with national cost-of-living pressures. It is one of the biggest issues that constituents talk to me about, whether it is when they drop into my electorate office, when I am out doorknocking or holding mobile offices or at community events—conversations with people on the door like Darryl, a pensioner in Wavell Heights; or Hayley, a small business owner and mum in Northgate; Steve, a construction worker in Boondall; and all of the locals who recently completed my cost-of-living survey across the Nudgee electorate. All have said that cost-of-living, particularly groceries, is putting pressure on their families and our local community. While we do not regulate the price of food, I do acknowledge the hard work of our current supermarket inquiry and the work that it is doing around pricing practices for consumers and our farmers. We have listened to Queenslanders' call for cost-of-living relief and we are acting.

Through the cheaper power bill, we will provide a \$1,000 rebate to every single Queensland household to reduce their electricity bill. That is something we can do and, as I said, we listened to those calls. Queenslanders want this support—the people in my electorate certainly want this support—and now we are acting. Importantly, the rebate will be on top of the existing \$372 rebate available to pensioners and seniors who need it most, meaning these households will receive a total rebate of \$1,372—that is a huge assistance—and this is further extended by \$300 with the recently announced federal government electricity rebate. However, we know that it is not only members across our communities who are feeling the national cost-of-living pressures; it is also our small businesses that are doing it tough. That is why this bill also delivers a \$325 electricity rebate for small business—the same amount that we previously provided. Importantly, it is not only what immediately comes to mind when we think of small businesses but also microbusinesses, social enterprises and our much loved community organisations and sporting clubs. It will also make a huge difference to them.

The Labor government can provide this substantial cost-of-living measure because we have maintained public ownership of our electricity assets. History tells us that the LNP, the party of cut, sack and sell, wants to sell off these electricity assets to the highest bidder, but that is not our position. This is another clear point of difference between our government and those opposite and just another point of clear difference between how our government is providing for Queenslanders and the plans of those opposite.

We will also provide this relief because our Labor government is making multinational mining companies pay their fair share through our progressive coal royalties. Queenslanders own the coal in the ground—Queenslanders—and they should also benefit when coal prices are high. The LNP has already given a wink and a nod to the coalmining companies that should they be elected in October,

they will repeal our progressive coal royalties regime. That would mean only one thing for our government's generous electricity rebates: they would cut them; money would be ripped out of the pockets of Queenslanders.

It is only a Labor government that will prioritise cost-of-living relief to help every Queensland household—for Darryl, for Hayley and Steve, for all Nudgee locals and for every Queenslanders. I commend the bill to the House.