




Speech By  
**Hon. Leanne Enoch**

**MEMBER FOR ALGESTER**

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Record of Proceedings, 21 May 2024

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

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts) (8.34 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Cheaper Power (Supplementary Appropriation) Bill 2024. We know that families are feeling the demands of increased household bills as national cost-of-living pressures impact households. When I speak with staff and volunteers at any of our 128 government funded neighbourhood centres across the state, the story is all too familiar. More and more people are turning to support services to help make ends meet. Whether that be for extra food support, financial literacy and resilience services, emergency relief or the many other services available, the number of Queenslanders presenting for assistance has been increasing dramatically since the pandemic and often it is individuals and families that have never turned to support services for help before.

The new Miles Labor government is committed to taking the pressure off families, which is why we are delivering the biggest cost-of-living package in Queensland's history, including more than \$2.5 billion in cost-of-living relief through electricity rebates. From 1 July this year, every eligible residential Queensland household will see a \$1,000 lump sum credit on their next electricity bill which will be applied automatically. For typical residential customers across Queensland, the \$1,000 rebate may represent around half of their estimated annual electricity bill in 2024-25, meaning most Queenslanders may not pay anything on their first electricity bill after 1 July 2024 and may not pay another bill until 2025. On top of this record energy rebate, the recently announced federal government \$300 electricity rebate means that eligible residential Queensland households will receive \$1,300 off their annual electricity bill in 2024-25. This combined rebate will be welcome relief to many Queenslanders wherever they live.

Whilst I was in Winton just last week, I spoke with Helen and Shannon from the Winton Neighbourhood Centre and I heard firsthand, as I have from people in my own electorate of Algester and beyond, that this energy rebate will make a huge difference to families and help relieve some of the pressures so many are experiencing. In addition to the \$1,000 cost-of-living rebate, vulnerable households—those, for instance, with a Queensland Seniors Card, Services Australia or Department of Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Concession Card—are eligible for an extra rebate of \$372.20, meaning vulnerable households will receive a combined \$1,672.20 in cost-of-living relief from the Miles Labor government and the federal Labor government, something that I know will help many seniors across the Algester electorate, including 82-year-old Wendy from Acacia Ridge who was close to tears when we spoke about the electricity rebates coming her way from the Miles government.

An estimated 205,000 small businesses may be eligible for the \$325 small business rebate in Queensland. This includes sporting clubs, community organisation, microbusinesses, social enterprises and charities. Combined with the recently announced federal government small business rebate, eligible small businesses will receive \$650 off their power bills in 2024-25. The Miles Labor government is able to put more money back in the pockets of Queenslanders because we are taking on multinational mining companies and keeping our energy assets in public hands.

All of this is at risk if the LNP ever get their way. That is why we are bringing this cost-of-living relief through a supplementary appropriation bill. We want to protect this rebate from any future government revoking or reducing the rebate. We know that the LNP want to cut progressive coal royalties and the direct cost-of-living relief they provide. The Leader of the Opposition is already on the record saying he does not support Queensland's progressive coal royalties. Given the chance, he will side with his multinational mates over Queenslanders getting their fair share of record coal profits. Under the LNP, electricity prices increased by 43 per cent. That was after it had promised to reduce electricity bills by \$120. The LNP's record speaks for itself. It cannot be trusted with Queenslanders' electricity bills and that is why only the Miles Labor government will put Queenslanders first. I commend the bill to the House.