



Speech By  
**Linus Power**


**MEMBER FOR LOGAN**

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Record of Proceedings, 6 March 2024

**MOTION**

**Cost of Living, Select Committee**

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (5.38 pm): After listening to this debate carefully I have decided that I am going to support the amended motion put forward by the member for Gladstone. I will highlight for the House the reasoning behind my decision. I am the member for Logan. I represent some of the hardest working Queenslanders who often do not get the financial reward they deserve. I speak to people at the Park Ridge shops or at Jimboomba and recently I spoke to people who were struggling to put food on the table because of the fact they had lost work and had so many bills pile up because of the big storms that came through Jimboomba and the Scenic Rim. I know that they are doing it tough. We hear it. We are in touch with it. It matters. I am supporting the amended motion because I am disappointed that on the other side we hear more slogans than solutions. There is much more about politics rather than power prices. This is all about elections rather than electricity. Honestly, they spoke more about LNP candidates than they spoke about the cost of living or shopping carts.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr POWER:** I can see that they continue to want to speak about politics. We want to speak about solutions for hardworking Queenslanders such as those in Logan. I know how tough Queenslanders are doing it. We know that family budgets are under pressure. That is why I am proud to be the chair of the Cost of Living and Economics Committee, as mentioned in paragraph (a) of the amendment. The cost of living was an important part of the report that we did about the concentration of ownership in the pharmacy sector. We are also taking action right now so that we can lower household bills for Queenslanders. In total, we have provided more than \$8 billion worth of cost-of-living relief in this financial year alone.

**Mr Head** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Please resume your seat, member for Logan, primarily so that I can see the member for Callide. I can hear you, member for Callide, and you are warned under the standing orders.

**Mr POWER:** I can certainly hear the member for Callide as well, although he was not talking about the \$8 billion worth of cost-of-living relief that we have provided this financial year because he will not. He wants to talk politics; he does not want to talk solutions. We are delivering free kindy and free TAFE and the biggest electricity rebates in this country, but no-one on the other side wants to talk about that. Why won't they talk about that? It is because they want to cut it. We are expanding access to free health care through our satellites hospitals, and something I am really proud of is the recently announced free walk-in nurse-led clinics.

We can deliver this universal cost-of-living relief because our government has made some really tough and strong decisions. Firstly—and I know that my mate here believes in this very strongly—we have kept our assets in public hands when they were going to sell them. That was a tough decision.

We took on the multinational mining companies that this group kowtow to. We ensure they pay Queenslanders a fair share of royalties when they make record profits—record profits that they want to hand back to overseas companies. I stand for Queenslanders, not foreign shareholders.

We know that there is a lot more to be done. We know that every time Queenslanders go to the supermarket they are being hit by ever-increasing costs. Queensland parents should be able to give their kids a healthy meal without breaking the bank. Like the member for Redlands, I notice the difference in prices between an independent shopping centre that goes direct to market, like Olley's Orange, and the big supermarkets with their concentration of power. That is why prices continue to rise for Queensland consumers. Farmers are being paid less and less for their products so there is a gap between the farm-gate price and the high prices that result from the supermarkets' concentration of power. That is not good enough and it is something that we need to focus on directly, which is why Premier Miles made it a priority.

Having a premier who is standing up on this basic issue has meant a change to the conversation nationally. He has brought the issue to the fore. He raised this issue on his first day in office and he has led. He has driven the national conversation ever since. That kind of strong leadership is back to basics and focused on the hip pocket. That is the kind of leadership that Queenslanders need in order to get a fair deal. I support the amendment that is before us because it is about solutions, not slogans. Their motion is about politics, not power prices.