




Speech By
Margaret Nightingale

MEMBER FOR INALA

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CHEAPER POWER (SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL)

 **Ms NIGHTINGALE** (Inala—ALP) (6.21 pm): I rise today in support of the Cheaper Power (Supplementary Appropriation) Bill 2024. I am proud to be a part of the Miles government that has recognised the need for such a bill—a bill that will provide much needed relief for Queenslanders. People in my community of Inala are doing it tough. They have told me that cost-of-living issues are their biggest concern at the moment. I am listening and the Miles Labor government is listening, and we are prioritising people over balance sheets—people like 85-year-old Dulcie from Durack in my electorate.

Dulcie was so excited to hear that, as a pension concession card holder, she will continue to receive the Queensland electricity rebate of \$372 along with the additional \$1,000 that all households will receive. That means that from July Dulcie and the many other vulnerable households across Inala will receive a total rebate of \$1,372 credited to their energy bills. When I asked Dulcie what she was going to do with the money she will be saving, she told me that she would start by buying the tea she likes. The tea Dulcie likes is not a fancy boutique tea blend. Dulcie explained that for her last grocery shop she could not afford to buy any tea, so this rebate means that Dulcie can now start her mornings with a cuppa and she does not have to worry about the energy she is using to boil the kettle because, with the additional \$300 from the federal Labor government, Dulcie is unlikely to pay an electricity bill until 2026. This matters to Dulcie and to other Queenslanders. The Miles government knows that every dollar counts and we are doing everything we can to keep costs down for Queenslanders.

That is what progressive coal royalties do. While the Miles government is focused on delivering big wins for Queenslanders, those opposite are only focused on winning the election. We know this because we see the Leader of the Opposition trying to be the smallest target he can. That is where his effort is going—not focusing on big ideas but focusing on staying small. Those opposite do not support progressive coal royalties and the benefits they allow. That is why we are bringing this cost-of-living relief through a supplementary appropriation bill, because we want to protect this rebate from any future government revoking or reducing the rebate. Those in opposition do not have a plan to ease the cost of living—or, even worse, they have a plan but it is a secret plan to cut. I remember what that was like and the people of Inala remember because it is my residents who are most likely to feel the pain of the cuts and chaos that an LNP government will bring.

As the newest member of this government, I had expectations that this place would be a place for the lively interrogation of ideas. I had expectations that the opposition would take an interest in the many issues that are important to Queenslanders. I had expectations that they would ask questions of, let us say, for instance, the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—questions that might signal their own policy plans. However, on this, they have fallen short. Instead, I have witnessed them waste question time and as a Queenslanders I am left disappointed in them. If the opposition is unable to do the job they have now, how can Queenslanders trust them to do the job of government? The answer is that Queenslanders cannot trust the LNP. The Leader of the Opposition is not telling us what he stands for. He is not standing up for the people of Queensland and he is certainly not standing up for the people of Inala. I commend this bill to the House.