



Speech By  
**Mark Bailey**


**MEMBER FOR MILLER**

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Record of Proceedings, 2 May 2024

## PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

### Cost of Living, Electricity Rebate

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (2.28 pm): My constituents have been talking to me about the cost of living. There is certainly a lot of support out there for our current \$550 per household rebate, which has been well received. It goes up to \$1,072 if you are on a full pension or full concession card. We need to do more. The announcement overnight of the \$1,000 rebate for every household in Queensland is welcome news and a relief for many Queenslanders who are struggling to make ends meet. The remnants of COVID, inflation and the cost of living are causing difficulties for people, and we need support for our community until the economy comes back to fairly ordinary and normal circumstances. We can do that because this state Labor government kept our power assets in public hands. We saved them from being sold off by the previous Newman government's Strong Choices. That is what it was called, but it was certainly anything but that. Those are two words you will never hear the LNP say in this place. We kept our power assets in public hands, so we are able to do this.

The second reason we are able to do this is because we are making multinational mining companies pay their fair share back to the people of Queensland. Those resources are Queenslanders' resources and they deserve their fair share. Our ability to take a fair share through progressive royalties to pay for cost-of-living relief is something the vast majority of Queenslanders will support because that is what we should be doing. That is what a government in touch with the community should be doing. That stands in contrast to the previous government, when power prices surged 43 per cent and they gave no relief at all—zero. Their solution was to privatise power assets, which would have sent prices up even further.

This is not the only cost-of-living relief we have here in Queensland. We also froze public transport fares this year and we also froze registration fees for 2024-25, so people are also experiencing other relief. The revenue this financial year, as outlined in the midyear economic statement, has \$9.2 billion from multinational mining companies going into cost-of-living relief because of the decisions of this Miles Labor government. It will also be funding things like the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, transitioning to clean energy, creating jobs and bringing down our emissions, which is now legislated. This is a responsible government that is responding to the needs of the community. When I doorknock, the cost of living is the No. 1 issue. I know this \$1,000 rebate will be warmly welcomed by people right across the suburbs in my electorate. From Annerley to Graceville to Sherwood, all of my suburbs will be very happy.