




Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Furner**

**MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE**

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Record of Proceedings, 21 May 2024

**CHEAPER POWER (SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL)**

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (9.10 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the cheaper power bill. I commend not only the Premier but also the Treasurer for making sure that the cost of living is on the agenda and for their leadership in the matter that we are debating this evening. It does not matter where I go throughout Ferny Grove, addressing the cost of living is at the forefront of the minds of my constituents. Once again, it is a matter that only Labor governments address and it is in times like these that Queenslanders and Australians rely upon Labor governments.

This is very simple: households are facing cost-of-living pressures. While the causes may be complex, the Miles government's approach is very simple. To support Queenslanders financially, we are directly applying a \$1,000 rebate to every household power bill. It is great to see the Albanese government applying an additional \$300 to the \$1,000 from the Miles government to assist people with cost-of-living expenses. These rebates will help to ease financial pressures on hardworking families amid national cost-of-living pressures.

The reason we can provide this financial support is very simple. It is because we have taken on the multinational mining companies and that allows us to provide direct financial relief to Queensland households. Those opposite would never have had the appetite for this fight. They would have waved the white flag on the cost of living and that has been demonstrated in the past. The LNP would have allowed super profits to be sent offshore instead of into the pockets of Queensland families, where they are needed the most. Only Labor governments truly understand what it takes to support households that are doing it tough.

When I was in the Senate, the federal Labor government supported millions of Australians through direct financial assistance during the global financial crisis. This is identical on this occasion. That targeted support not only helped those doing it tough; it helped Australians avoid a recession, unlike much of the developed world. The Miles government is carrying on this proud tradition by helping those whom the LNP turn their back on. The Miles government will forever make sure that these measures are met.

We know that, because of the Miles government's generous rebates, Queensland households and small businesses continue to pay amongst the lowest prices for electricity in this country. Make no mistake: we are determined to keep putting downward pressure on Queenslanders' energy bills. We are determined to safeguard energy bill rebates from changes under a future LNP government. A future LNP government would target our energy rebates to claw back money from households, which is why we are legislating it now. We know that, deep down, the LNP is not really committed to the public ownership of our energy-producing assets. Cutting, sacking and selling are completely in their DNA. We know what happened when the LNP was last in power in Queensland: energy bills went up 43 per cent. The Miles Labor government understands the pressures that Queensland households are facing. It is why we are delivering unprecedented cost-of-living support for Queenslanders now and into the future. We believe that Queenslanders own the natural resources and that the revenue they generate should benefit all Queenslanders. I commend the bill to the House.