




Speech By
Hon. Meaghan Scanlon

MEMBER FOR GAVEN

Record of Proceedings, 21 May 2024

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Cost of Living

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works) (9.57 am): We are committed to taking pressure off household budgets, something we are able to do because we are making multinational mining companies pay their fair share and by keeping our assets in public hands. Because of that, families and individuals across this state will now receive \$1,000 off their energy bill and another \$300 from the federal budget, building on our nation-leading cost-of-living relief package.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, you will cease your interjections.

Ms SCANLON: It is the biggest ever rebate offered by any government and just one of the many ways that we are working to take pressure off household budgets. We have made kindy free. We have made TAFE free and now through our Homes for Queenslanders plan we have a dedicated rent relief package—direct financial support to help people keep a roof over their head; people like Patricia whom I met recently on the Gold Coast. She lost her job and was not able to keep up with the rent so we stepped in to help her and her four-year-old daughter. She is one of 78,000 people who have received rental support from this government.

Recently I announced an expansion of that program to help even more Queenslanders. As a homelessness organisation asked me last week in Bundaberg, 'What happens to all of this support after October?' The truth is that all of that is at risk under those opposite. The LNP has suggested that our Homes for Queenslanders plan is too much. They want to take back the billions of dollars in coal royalties from Queenslanders that is delivering direct cost-of-living support and instead give it to their mates in big business.

Our cost-of-living relief measures are only possible because we have kept assets in public hands and because we have taken on multinational mining companies. At a time when Queenslanders can least afford cuts, those opposite will sell our power assets and make cuts to rebates, health, education and housing. Only a Miles Labor government can be trusted with Queensland's future.