



Speech By  
**Michael Crandon**


**MEMBER FOR COOMERA**

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Record of Proceedings, 1 May 2024

**MOTION**

**Miles Labor Government, Travel Expenses**

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (5.43 pm): I support the motion moved by the member for Nanango. At a time when rents are soaring, when interest rates are soaring, when food costs are soaring, the Premier and the police minister thought it would be a great idea to go soaring off into the wide blue yonder in two jets. I am told by a source that it could be at a cost \$6,500 per hour per jet. If the Premier decides to front up to the people of Queensland, we will see how accurate that is. Let us assume it is. Let us assume it is just 10 hours per jet. That is \$65,000 each—\$130,000 in just a few days.

Median rents on the Gold Coast are \$850, up 10 per cent year on year up by around \$300 a week just a few years ago. It means tenants are committing as much as 50 per cent of their wages now to rent compared to 33 per cent a few short years ago. With rental accommodation accessibility at an all-time low, it also means that renters are having to share accommodation just so they are able to eat and pay for other expenses.

What about home owners? With current interest rates at six per cent to seven per cent, home owners are being served a double whammy with house prices soaring as well. Interest rates are at their highest since 2002. The average mortgage is around \$600,000. At six per cent interest, that is \$36,000 a year or \$3,000 a month. If we add a capital amount to try to pay down the loan, we are talking \$1,000 a week plus other costs.

Let us make a comparison. The Premier thought it was okay to spend \$130,000 on two jets to go around Queensland for a few days—for a few days—to hear from the people of Queensland what the people of Queensland have been telling the Premier for the last nine years. In a few days flying around Queensland he spent the equivalent of the rent or mortgage for as many as 250 households for a week. At a time when Queenslanders are forced to tighten their belts, the Premier and police minister were fastening their seatbelts on two private jets. At a time when Queenslanders are struggling to make ends meet, the Premier and police minister were flying from one end of Queensland to the other. The Premier and this third-term Labor government have lost touch with reality. They have lost touch with everyday Queenslanders.

In contrast, let us have a look at the LNP priorities to drive down the cost of living. These include reducing Labor government waste and stopping the cost blowouts rather than hitting Queenslanders with higher taxes and fees; delivering better services and infrastructure for every taxpayer dollar invested; identifying opportunities to reduce fees and charges; driving down electricity costs by properly maintaining our power plants; driving down insurance costs by reducing the impact of crime on premiums; driving down insurance costs by investing in natural disaster mitigation; and driving down transport costs by reducing traffic congestion.

The LNP has already secured cost-of-living wins for Queensland families by forcing the decade-old Palaszczuk-Miles Labor government to reduce the cost of a learner's licence by \$100 to help young Queenslanders; delay Labor's renters' tax; and delay Labor's patients' tax.

The LNP are focused on the people of Queensland. The LNP will provide grants of up to \$3,500 to subsidise solar panels on rental properties, saving renters up to \$700 on electricity bills as part of its supercharged solar for renters policy. The LNP will drive down power bills and deliver affordable, reliable and sustainable electricity with a maintenance guarantee for government owned power plants. This will ensure maintenance is not forgone to prop up the government's balance sheet, driving up power bills. At the end of the day in Queensland, Queenslanders will have the opportunity to send Labor a message in just a few short months time, an opportunity to show Labor the door in 2024.