




Speech By
Hon. Nikki Boyd

MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

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CHEAPER POWER (SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL)

 **Hon. N BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services) (6.53 pm): What a pleasure it is this evening to rise and speak to the debate on the cheaper power bill. I am already on the record talking about the fantastic difference this will make in my community with each and every household getting a thousand dollars off their energy bill. For seniors, that is \$1,372 and for our small businesses that is \$325. We are doing this now so people can get a lump sum payment from 1 July, which is absolutely tremendous. I talk to locals in my community and across the state all the time about what a difference this will make and it has been very warmly received. We can do this for two reasons: we are getting our fair share back from progressive coal royalties and we own our energy assets. Because of public ownership, through years of government, we have been able to give back to Queensland households. We have been doing that with really generous rebates to Queensland households and small businesses. Because of this we continue to pay amongst the lowest prices for energy in the country here in Queensland.

Given that I am already on the public record talking about this, in this contribution I really want to focus on the position of the LNP when it comes to renewable power and some of the things they are feeding into the argument that, quite frankly, are just not true. The first one which is really interesting to me is the claim that Callide has been offline for 1,000 days. I got trolled about this the other day so I thought I would do some research. I did a quick Google search, and has it been offline for a thousand days? No, it has not. Publicly owned B1 and B2 have continued to generate since the incident and Callide C3 returned to service on 1 April 2024. That was a little while ago now, certainly not a thousand days. In fact, it took just 350 days since the joint venture agreed to cooperate on the rebuild. The joint venture was created when the LNP sold off Queensland's share to the private sector.

I commend the workers who have been rebuilding Callide and getting the infrastructure back online. Almost half a million hours have gone into restoring that service. They are slogging it out through hot summers and dangerous storms and they are working day and night. While I am on the subject, I want to especially commend our Ergon and Energex workers who have been restoring power generation in the wake of natural disasters across the state. I have seen that right across the state of Queensland. Again, we can do this only because we own our energy assets, which is very different from the LNP.

What do the LNP stand for? The member for Whitsunday comes in here and says that she does not support the Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro scheme in her electorate. How on earth can they meet the emissions targets that the LNP have voted for in this House and that have been committed to? They are not popular with their base, I might add. How can they achieve those emissions targets if they do not have the Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro scheme? I wonder. Maybe with nuclear energy? Just last week I was really interested to read that Nuclear for Climate Australia, a big donor to the LNP, has put out their plan for nuclear power. Peter Dutton is our local MP. He loves nuclear; he is green about it. Peter Dutton, Amanda Stoker and a bunch of folks in the LNP here love nuclear. Where would they put the nuclear power plants? Where is the road map for Nuclear for Climate Australia? Where do they

want to put them? They want to put one in my community. They want to put one in Samsonvale, right in Peter Dutton's backyard. They want to truck nuclear waste through my streets and through my community.

That is not something that I will ever stand for because nuclear is the most expensive form of power. It takes decades to get it up off the ground. At least the KAP are on the record in this place saying they support it. Where do the LNP sit with it? The member for Condamine wants to know about when the power goes out and what kind of record that is for energy ministers. I could not help but think maybe Fukushima was one of those instances because the nuclear story always ends so well! The LNP have absolutely no credibility when it comes to Queenslanders' electricity bills. Under them power prices went up 43 per cent.

Mr Mander: Five more months.

Ms BOYD: That is the record of the member for Everton. Here is something for generosity—

Mr Saunders interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member for Maryborough, you are warned under the standing orders. You can return to your correct seat as well. All members need to be in their own seat if they are going to interject.

Ms BOYD: After they jacked up the prices by 43 per cent, the member for Nanango was advocating to close down three power turbines because power prices were too low. After that they went to the polls and promised \$120 back for Queenslanders—and they have the audacity to come in here and tell us that this is a sugar hit. Only Labor will deliver what Queenslanders need: cost-of-living relief and the transition that we need into renewable energy. The LNP simply cannot be trusted with this. I welcome this reform that will in many cases mean that Queenslanders do not have to pay a power bill until well into 2025. This is good, progressive Labor reform.