




Speech By
Hon. Scott Stewart

MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE

Record of Proceedings, 21 March 2024

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENTS

Townsville, Electricity Prices

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals) (2.28 pm): I rise to talk about what the Miles government is doing to support the people of Townsville. We know how many people are struggling with cost-of-living pressures. That is why we are stepping up to help. This government has provided more than 96,000 Townsville households with more than \$59 million in electricity bill relief. As part of the \$1.6 billion cost-of-living relief package announced in the budget, more than 83,500 households across Townsville are estimated to have benefited from \$550 off their electricity bills. A further 12,500 of Townsville's most vulnerable households were eligible for additional electricity rebates, which means \$1,072 cash back per household. This is just in Townsville alone. This is a startling figure and one we are very proud of.

I am proud to be part of the Miles government that is committed to lowering power bills for people in Townsville. The only way we can do this is because we own the assets, and under this government we always will. Those opposite wanted to sell Ergon—those are the facts. Here are some more facts for those opposite. Under the LNP, power prices went up by 43 per cent and bills in the regions went up by \$600 in just three years. Despite the mega hit to Queensland's hip pocket, the LNP did not provide electricity bill relief to struggling families. In fact, they prepared to sell Queensland's assets and risk prices going even further through the roof.

The member for Broadwater and the opposition are full of illusion. We know they do not back our progressive coal royalties and this means there will be a budget black hole. It means they will not support Queenslanders with cost-of-living relief because they cannot afford to do so. It is a pretty simple equation.

While I am on my feet I cannot pass up the opportunity to talk about superstar Pink playing at the Queensland Country Bank Stadium later this week. Up to 65,000 fans are expected to attend both nights, making it the largest event ever held at the stadium. That is why we built the Queensland Country Bank Stadium. We know there is a massive economic boost for mega events like this. We are estimating there will be a benefit of almost \$50 million from this one particular event. There are more than 20,000 concertgoers coming from outside of Townsville which is absolutely fantastic for our city and for our local businesses.

Townsville is the events capital of north Australia. We know how much of an impact events like Pink make, and that is why this government continues to back them. Our local businesses are getting right behind the event with all sorts of Pink paraphernalia. I am even advised that the king of the north, JT, or at least his statue, is adorned in pink headgear.

(Time expired)