




Speech By  
**Shane King**

**MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH**

---

Record of Proceedings, 21 May 2024

### **CHEAPER POWER (SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL)**

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (8.03 pm): I rise to speak on the Cheaper Power (Supplementary Appropriation) Bill 2024. This bill shows the values of the Miles Labor government. We do care and we listen. We know Queensland families are doing it tough. Because we made the right decision to keep electricity assets in public hands instead of flogging them off like those opposite sought to and because we made the decision to make multinational mining companies pay for the extra coal they are moving on from our state, we can help make life a bit easier for Queensland families by giving them this cost-of-living relief measure.

With every family who has an electricity account getting \$1,000 as a credit on their bill and now an extra \$300 from the Albanese federal Labor government, things should become a bit easier. After 1 July, when the next power bill arrives, for most of us there will not be a cent to pay and any leftover credit will be held over until it is used. Pensioners and seniors will still get the existing \$372 in electricity rebates provided and this will be paid to all eligible households on top of the \$1,000. Vulnerable households will get a rebate of \$1,372 from the state and, with another \$300 in a staged payment from the Albanese federal government, the total will be \$1,672.

Small business does not miss out either. We know small businesses are also doing it tough. To support those businesses right across the state, the cheaper power bill will deliver a \$325 electricity rebate provided through a single payment in 2024-25, which is the same amount the state funded in the current financial year. This will be matched by the Albanese Labor government to make a total of \$650. It is hard to argue that this will not help our families and businesses, but I am sure some—and I have heard some—will still try to bag these measures, but then they bag everything.

If those opposite talk to their communities like I do, they would know how much this will help and how appreciated it is. I spent the last few weeks talking to my community, walking the streets like my colleague from Maryborough, and explaining details about how this will work with embedded networks, and talking to those who seek to get some of the credit from their provider to help pay other bills such as water and other things they need in their lives. I do not think the LNP talk to the community about these things; I think they talk at the community. They never mention how under their watch power prices rose by 43 per cent. They promised to lower them by \$120 but it never happened. They bang on about wholesale prices—

**Mr Watts** interjected.

**Mr KING:**—but once again they went up. All they do is bag and whinge. I do not pay wholesale prices at my place. Wholesale prices are influenced by many things. Certain overseas conflicts have influenced the price of gas and coal, as do demand and weather. They all influence changes in wholesale spot prices. To jump on a high spot price and say that has increased the kilowatt hour price at my house is a long bow to draw. We are a government that listens and cares about Queenslanders. I am sure the Treasurer will have some other cost-of-living measures tucked away in the budget. This rebate is very well received and appreciated. I commend the bill to the House.