




Speech By
Hon. Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Cost of Living

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (9.36 am): Queenslanders tell me cost of living is the No. 1 issue they are facing. It is what families and friends are discussing at the dinner table. I hear that message loud and clear. I am willing to make difficult decisions to ensure we can afford to deliver for them. We have a huge \$8.2 billion cost-of-living relief program in place—the largest ever seen in Queensland or the nation—to make transport, health care and education cheaper, to deliver free kindy, free TAFE and free apprenticeships for people under 25, to help renters to stay in their homes and provide bond loan relief and to drive down the cost of electricity bills. Every household in Queensland is at least \$550 better off, while our seniors and most vulnerable have had \$1,072 slashed off their energy bills, which is only possible because we made decisions to keep electricity assets in public hands and because we increased taxes on coal companies.

I am pleased to say our rebates have already had a big impact. Data from the Australian Energy Regulator shows that Queensland is the only state in the National Electricity Market to see payment plans reduced. In real terms, over the last two quarters there was a 40 per cent decrease in electricity payment plans in Queensland. Many households have not even paid a bill since the rebates came into effect. It is proof that direct relief on energy bills makes a difference, which is exactly why these measures will continue.

I commit that in our upcoming budget we will make the tough decisions to deliver more for Queenslanders—for all Queenslanders, including low and middle income households. This budget will respond to what Queenslanders have said to me in the last three months, which is that the most important and impactful thing we can do is put more money into their household budget. This budget will bolster our efforts to alleviate housing pressures through our Homes for Queenslanders plan and help to hire more police, more doctors and more nurses for our growing communities. Those are the priorities of Queenslanders and those are my priorities as Premier, because when Queenslanders say something to me I act on it.