




Speech By
Hon. Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Cost of Living, Electricity Rebate

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (10.09 am): I know that rising mortgage payments, rents and grocery prices are putting pressure on every family budget. I know that because everywhere I go in Queensland people tell me. It is why we are preparing the biggest cost-of-living relief package in Queensland's history as part of our upcoming budget. But some things are just too urgent to wait.

Today our government is delivering the single biggest cost-of-living initiative by a state government ever: \$1,000 for every single Queensland household. That rises to \$1,372 for our seniors and most vulnerable. This lump sum will be credited to energy bills from 1 July this year. This means that the overwhelming majority of Queensland households will not pay any bill for the first quarter of the next financial year. Many Queenslanders will not pay an electricity bill again until 2025. Anything not used in the first bill will stay on their account for the next bill, the bill after that and the bill after that. We expect this will save Queenslanders more than \$2.5 billion in the next financial year. It is only possible because we are making multinational mining companies pay their fair share through progressive coal royalties and because Queenslanders own their energy assets. They will always own their energy assets under a Labor government.

Today's announcement is about helping Queenslanders make ends meet and fighting inflation. People tell me how much our energy rebates have helped them. Nelda says she has not paid an electricity bill in over a year thanks to solar power and subsidies. Nicky and Pauline say the rebates were greatly appreciated, and Ja-nellie says she just got her lowest bill in many years. Recent ABS data shows the \$550 rebate has helped lower electricity bills by 9.35 per cent. Today's announcement is almost double that, which will drive this down even further and help keep inflation in Queensland lower than the national average.

Queensland already has the lowest energy bills on the east coast of Australia, as confirmed by Canstar Blue. I want to thank Christine from Canstar Blue for joining the Deputy Premier and me today to make this important announcement. From their research, they say the average Queensland quarterly electricity bill is \$315. That is 10.5 per cent lower than South Australia, nine per cent lower than New South Wales and about two per cent lower than the ACT and Victoria.

Mr Head interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Callide, cease your interjections.

Mr MILES: There will always be more to do, but I will do everything I can to put money back in the pockets of Queensland families—every Queensland family in every part of Queensland—today and every day.