



Speech By  
**Robbie Katter**


**MEMBER FOR TRAEGER**

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**MOTION**

**Energy Industry**

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (5.30 pm): I move—

That this House:

1. acknowledges that the aspiration to achieve net zero emissions is costing Queenslanders' household budgets;
2. revokes all net zero targets; and
3. immediately reinvest in coal and gas baseload generation to take advantage of our abundance of coal and gas in Queensland.

We are here tonight to talk about household budgets. Much has been said about the state budget and it will continue to be spoken about this week, but this motion relates to a particular focus on the household budget. I know that when my wife and I talk about our household budget, the No. 1 or No. 2 ranked item is power bills. It has come as a great surprise and shock to me over recent years when I reflect on what I used to pay for power for my house across the road. It was a house of a similar nature with a pressure pump and a pool pump. We used to pay about \$4,000 a year and now we are nudging over \$9,000 a year. We have gone to quarterly bills because we could not afford it. I thought that maybe we were doing something wrong, so we got an electrician to put on a wi-fi monitor to monitor where all of the energy usage was in our house. Nothing was out of place. I thought, 'What the hell's going on here?'

As a politician I certainly know what is going on out there, but I am speaking figuratively. Then a flood of complaints started to come in from constituents. People who do not follow the energy market or what is going on much politically were saying, 'I'll tell you what it is, Robbie. It's those smart meters. Since they put those on my electricity has gone up.' I say to them that it is a lot bigger than smart meters. I pondered that the number of Ergon workers has not doubled in the Traeger electorate, nor has it in Queensland, and their wages have not doubled. What has happened in the electricity market over recent years? What significant thing has happened?

We have tried to pre-emptively replace—or you might say replicate—the generation network with renewables. Everyone says they are cheaper. We never really get to the bottom of that. It is a really difficult argument to have here because with subsidies, carbon credits and the distortion of the markets, it is very difficult to say what the true cost of these things are. It is hard to be convinced that, when you see all of the infrastructure and works that go into installing wind farms and some of these things, we are fully capturing the cost of these things. You are replicating that network and it is not centralised. It is not like one big coal-fired power station at Biloela. You are putting all of these generators everywhere—mostly privately owned, I might add—so now we have to build a separate network and substations and everything to accommodate that. That gets pretty expensive and it has to land somewhere. Curiously, my power bill has gone up at the same time as that network has been rolled out.

We are 35 per cent of the way to these targets. Where does this end? How do we afford this? The money has to come from somewhere. I know you are going to keep knocking on us on our power bills. We have reached the threshold now where people are saying they cannot afford it, so someone has to ask the question: where does this stop? Are we being honest with people about how much this is costing us? This debate tonight is not all about accepting or debating climate change; it is about what is the cost we are willing to pay to meet the targets you are setting.

When we talk about targets, under scrutiny in the federal parliament CSIRO said there are 40 different models for net zero. Not one—40 different models. We have one for Australia, but it is not the same as overseas, so in five years let's swap with someone else that has a more convenient model for us where we do not have to take the same measures. You might say, 'At least we're doing something.' Maybe that is true, but be honest about the cost of it. Be honest about the cost of this stuff for Queenslanders. A lot of poor people are sitting there at home and of course they are saying, 'Yes, I really want to fix the environment.' When you put that proposition out people are going to say, 'Well, hang on, Australia and Queensland voted for this. They want to fix the environment.' Of course we all do. Everyone loves the environment. But you tell them what it is costing them, because they are sitting at home—probably like me and my wife—saying this stuff is starting to hurt, and we are only at 35 per cent. We still have a long way to go. Those are big numbers to stretch to.

If you want to solve global climate problems here, are you going to make Queensland do that? Are you going to make Australia do that? We contribute one per cent of global emissions. Until you convince places like India and China to get onboard with this, we are wasting our time. They are not really interested in this at the moment. We still have some 34 billion tonnes of coal. We are still willing to sell it to them and they can burn it, but we are going to deny ourselves that opportunity of an energy advantage. We have done the same thing with gas, but that is another story. There is so much hypocrisy in this. Be honest about the costs of net zero and let's walk away from them.