



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

---

Record of Proceedings, 9 December 2025

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Cost of Living**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (2.47 pm): It is always great to follow the member for Bonney—probably the most tone-deaf, heartless and callous housing minister we have ever seen, especially after the contribution—

**Mr O'CONNOR:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at those disgraceful comments and I ask that they be withdrawn.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Minister, there is no need to put that subjectivity into your point of order. Member, would you withdraw?

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I withdraw. I would urge the housing minister to meet with the constituents of the member for Bundaberg who are going through such a tough time. I think we were all moved, or most of us were moved, by those stories.

Today I rise to speak about the LNP's broken promises, particularly when it comes to cost of living. We have heard a number of stories today about Queenslanders doing it tough. A year into their term in government, Queenslanders have seen a growing list of broken promises and a failure to help Queenslanders in a cost-of-living crisis. The latest inflation data tells a very troubling story—a story that makes me a little bit nervous about what else the LNP are going to dump on Queenslanders in their budget update next week or what will be missing, that is, universal cost-of-living relief. In October, Brisbane's headline CPI rose again. Inflation was 5.2 per cent. The highest of any capital city was right here in Brisbane.

The broken promise of this Premier to scrap energy rebates has sent power prices through the roof. The ABS has reported that electricity prices have risen an astonishing 468 per cent in a year. Economists have been blunt about the consequences. Once the rebate fell out of the CPI calculation in the September quarter, inflation for Brisbane and regional Queensland jumped to 4.7 per cent, which is well above the national average. Brisbane is now the most expensive capital city in the country, so what is this government going to do to support Queensland families doing it tough? Rents continue to climb. Families are still reeling from rising grocery prices, soaring insurance premiums and unpredictable fuel costs.

In my electorate of Waterford, 40 per cent of households are renters. Data has now shown that 86 per cent of renters in Logan are experiencing rental stress. Some suburbs in my community, Tanah Merah and Underwood, have 100 per cent of renters in rental stress. That means thousands of households in my electorate alone cannot afford their rent, cannot afford their bills. Families are doing the maths and they are cutting back wherever possible, but they are still coming up short. We have seen nothing from this government to help these families. QCROSS has warned that people on low incomes are making impossible choices between keeping a roof over their head, feeding their kids, or

paying to get their kids their school uniforms or into school sport. Families are spending up to 48 per cent of their household incomes just on housing. The government has the tools to protect Queenslanders from this, but they have completely walked away from any support for families.

The Treasurer's budget update next week will show us exactly how little they intend to change course. I do not expect to see any change that will help Queenslanders doing it tough because their entire government has been completely tone deaf to the hardship and struggle of Queensland families. This time they have to take ownership of their policies and their budget. They have had six appropriation bills and 265 media releases mention their budget. You cannot blame Labor anymore for this mess. The budget update is a reflection of their economic management, and they will have to front up to Queenslanders next week and explain why there is no universal cost-of-living relief coming their way.

If their last budget update is their idea of good economic management, I think all Queenslanders are in trouble. Let's hope this time the Treasurer does not try and create another magic pudding with the debt figure or play the blame game. Let's not forget he added \$23 billion in operational expenses. We still do not know where that money has gone. In fact, the Under Treasurer confirmed it was just an estimate—a pretty big one—that then sent Queensland on an outlook downgrade. He not only shot the fiscal credibility of the government, lost the trust of the bond market and lost the trust of ratings agencies but also, more importantly, lost the trust of Queensland families when energy rebates were not continued. Maybe this time the Treasurer can get all of the under treasurers to sign off on the budget update.

**Mr Miles:** Maybe.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** Maybe. We will have to see. On this side we will keep fighting for Queenslanders and fighting for cost-of-living relief because they need it.

*(Time expired)*