




Speech By
Hon. David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Fuel Security

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.36 am): Our government is delivering affordable, reliable and sustainable energy for Queenslanders. Our Energy Roadmap outlines our plan to put downward pressure on electricity prices. During a decade of decline under Labor, our energy assets were neglected and Queenslanders were left to pay the price. One of the first things we did when we came to government was to scrap Labor's \$36.8 billion hydro hoax. It would have seen Queenslanders pay \$1,035 extra per year on their power bill. Our plan is based on economics and engineering, not ideology.

Last week we saw a strong vote of confidence in our Energy Roadmap. The latest draft default market offer from the Australian Energy Regulator shows residential prices in South-East Queensland are set to drop by more than 10 per cent. For small businesses, prices are set to reduce by almost 13 per cent. This is the first proposed decrease in many years and the biggest reduction in the history of the scheme. We are calling on electricity retailers to ensure these reductions are passed on to Queenslanders in full.

Queenslanders in the south-east expect and deserve to see genuine relief, but regional Queenslanders deserve to share in the benefits, too. The Queensland Competition Authority is currently undertaking their draft determination for regional electricity prices. We are calling for reductions in power prices to flow through to the regions in full. Whatever the final figure is in the south-east, that should be replicated in the regions. We have invested in our network across the state. All Queenslanders should benefit from that. It is a commitment that is more important at a time when we know Queenslanders are struggling with affordability and access. Comments out of Canberra that there is more fuel today than two months ago belie Aussies' intelligence. They know that they are paying more. They know it is getting harder to get fuel. They are worried about whether future shipments will arrive.

Our request is clear: we want information and fuel to flow to every part of the state. I will not stand for Australians not getting the information they need. Today I am calling for the fuel prices and supply levels right across the country to be shared publicly and consistently. The Prime Minister has appointed a national taskforce coordinator. We were the first state to publicly announce our point of contact in Queensland at the highest level of government. We have proven we can put political differences aside, including during disasters, to get the right outcome.

We are asking Canberra to release information about prices and outages at a specific time every day for every state and territory. My submission to National Cabinet next week will be for coordinated, standardised, consistent and transparent information every day. We all have a role to play. The federal government's role is to coordinate the response. For our part, we were the first state to raise the concerns about supply shortages, and we were criticised for doing so by Canberra. We are ensuring

there is a flow of information. We have convened suppliers and retailers, we are removing planning hurdles to promote supply and future fuel security, and we are opening up new areas for gas and petroleum exploration like the Taroom Trough—a decision we took before this fuel crisis.

My ask is very straight: give Aussies the info they need about price and supply. In the vacuum of that information, anxiety will continue to grow. That is not the way through in a time of crisis. If the information is bad, we need to know about it, because my experience is that Queenslanders and Australians can handle that. When you provide people with the right information, you have a better chance of them making the right decision. It is a national crisis. We need a national solution guided by clear and consistent information.