




Speech By
James Martin

MEMBER FOR STRETTON

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MOTION

Fuel Security

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (6.01 pm): I do not know what other members in this place think, but I think the member for Gregory might be spending too much time at the race track!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Stretton, you managed to ignite that in a very short period of time. Let's go again. I call the member for Stretton.

Mr MARTIN: Across Australia, governments at all levels—state and federal—are taking action to protect their constituents against the impacts of rising fuel prices, or rather I should say all governments except for this one. In other jurisdictions we have seen the formation of fuel security round tables, new anti-gouging laws and personal responsibility adopted by the leaders of those states. What about the Queensland Premier? Is he putting new laws on the table to protect consumers against price rises? No. Is he offering to take personal responsibility to protect Queenslanders? No. Instead his big plan is to send two letters—one to the ACCC and one to the federal minister. I do not know about other members in this place and I do not know how good he thinks his letters are but on this side of the House we know that Queenslanders expect a bit more than correspondence. In the face of the most significant oil shock in almost half a century, the Premier's response boils down to two pieces of paper. The Crisafulli LNP government is an utter failure on fuel security and affordability. They have failed hardworking Queenslanders, mums and dads trying to make ends meet, because their plans to help people doing it tough do nothing and pass the buck.

If the Premier's current plan fails, what is his backup? Maybe a strongly worded email, maybe a text message with some angry face emojis. All they have done so far is have a few meetings and appoint a coordinator, but what is the coordinator's job? Well, it turns out the coordinator's job is to pass on information to the federal government. Wow, the coordinator is going to forward the emails. The coordinator can forward all the emails. Fantastic. There is no enforcement, no crackdown on price gouging, no action—nothing. Instead we get a jelly-armed promise from a jelly-armed Premier and a jelly-armed government that they will shine a spotlight on the issue. That is what the Premier said yesterday.

Queenslanders do not need a light show; they need fuel in the tank and prices that they can actually afford. The Treasurer is no better. He followed on yesterday with the same tired script. There was talk of more letters and his big promise—this was a big one; it got the people of Queensland really excited—monitoring: 'We are going to monitor the situation.' I can see the Treasurer on the second top floor in 1 William Street. He is behind his desk looking at Petrol Spy. His staffers are around him and they say, 'Boss, the price is going up—what do we do?' and he says, 'Calm down, boys. We are going to monitor the situation.' 'Okay, no problem.' There will be lots of monitoring at 1 William Street. I cannot wait to hear how that goes. There is no action, just the handballing of everything straight to Canberra.

Writing letters, shining spotlights, monitoring—it is not leadership, it is surrender and it is pathetic. In fact, the LNP have put more effort into attacking Labor's ideas for transport affordability than coming up with any of their own. We saw that today in the committee hearing. The hypocrisy is staggering. This is the same LNP that believes in bold state intervention when it suits their agenda, like rushing through laws that attack free speech, sacking 700 rail workers or cancelling electric buses—they would have been pretty useful right now. When it comes to protecting families from \$2.60 a litre or \$3 a litre diesel, suddenly they are all small government purists, all libertarian purists. 'Oh, we cannot do anything, but do not worry we are going to monitor the heck out of this, guys.'

What is worse is that while Premier Crisafulli sits on his hands other premiers are acting. They are rolling up their sleeves and they are protecting their states and constituents. Only the Queensland Premier is asleep at the wheel and Queenslanders are copping it the worst. Regional Queensland, the very heartland the LNP pretends to represent, is being smashed the hardest—farmers, truckies and families forced to choose between food and fuel. This is not just a national problem; this is a Queensland problem made worse by them. We have heard from their backbench who are eager to talk about the problem but it is pretty clear the frontbench is not willing to listen. My suggestion to the backbench is: if the frontbench are not doing what you say—

(Time expired)