



Speech By  
**Lance McCallum**


**MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA**

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Record of Proceedings, 5 March 2026

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Energex, Workforce**

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (2.35 pm): On 11 February this year, the energy minister was asked a simple question about whether or not there were cuts to the jobs of Energex contractors, and in his answer he said, 'No.' It is there on the parliamentary record. However, since that time, there is more and more information coming to the opposition that clearly demonstrates there are cuts, and these cuts are continuing to impact workers as well as small businesses. The opposition understands that the energy minister has not even met with the chair or the CEO of EQL since he gave that answer in question time on 11 February. No wonder there is confusion out there. Asked again this morning to clarify whether or not there were going to be any cuts to Energex contractors or if there were impacts to small businesses, we received more obfuscation and more confusion from the energy minister.

What is happening outside of this place, as the government continues to obfuscate, is that there are workers who are stressed, their families are being impacted and small businesses are having to shut their doors. Take Don from Collingwood Park in our Bundamba community, a fourth-year apprentice who is working as a contractor who made the significant decision to move interstate and buy a house in Collingwood Park. He is now facing having his work hours cut or redundancy. This is causing immense stress for Don and his family, including his two-year-old child and his pregnant partner. He told me he fears that without stable employment he will not be able to meet his mortgage repayments.

Let's take a look at small businesses. Darren in Bulimba, with only a week's notice, was notified that his power was going to be turned off from 8 am to 5 pm during the working day. Darren asked if the shutdown could happen outside of working hours, from 8 pm to 10 pm, but he was told that that could not happen. He had to cancel a 50-person function, booked months in advance, with zero notice. Can you imagine the lost revenue as well as the impact that that has on the reputation of his business? It is the same for Di from Spring Hill, in the electorate of McConnell, who was told to organise a generator at a cost of \$2,000. These workers deserve their hours and these businesses deserve compensation from this government.