



David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

Media statement

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David Littleproud calls on Qld Labor to save Queenslanders \$400 in power bill cut

MARANOA MP David Littleproud has called on the state's Energy and Natural Resources Minister Anthony Lynham to sharpen his knives and follow through on a call made by the leading electricity researcher and cut billions-of-dollars off the value of our electricity networks to save Queenslanders up to \$400 a year on electricity bills.

"As a surgeon, Dr Lynham knows how to cut the fat and should take control of Labor's energy crisis in Queensland to ensure electricity won't turn into a luxury that only few can afford," Mr Littleproud said.

The report, by Grattan Institute energy director Tony Wood, found up to \$20 billion in overspending on state-owned power networks had pushed up prices for consumers by between \$100 and \$400 a year.

"It's recommended the Queensland Government write-down the value of the Energex distribution business by between \$1.7 billion and \$3.9 billion, write-down up to \$890 million from the value of the Powerlink transmission business and write-down up to \$2.4 billion from Ergon Energy's distribution business value," he said.

"In Maranoa, we only have one electricity option – Ergon Energy – and this report shows how costly Queensland Labor's network gold plating has impacted our sky-high power prices.

"Labor's over-investment in poles and wires means Queenslanders are footing the bill for this state government's poor decisions where investment has outstripped population growth and demand."

Queensland's government-owned energy corporations posted a massive \$1.9 billion profit last year. That's a 45% increase on the \$1.3 billion in profits recorded in 2016.

"Ergon is state-owned but Labor just use it as a cash cow. How can Labor, in good conscience, milk \$1.9 billion from state-owned generators and distributors and let seniors and families doing it tough balk at turning on a heater because they're frightened of the next power bill? It's absolutely disgusting and it has to stop," Mr Littleproud said.

"In Maranoa, we have state-owned generators: the Tarong Power Stations in the South Burnett; the Western Downs' Kogan Creek Power Station; and the Millmerran Power Station on the Darling Downs – these are owned by hardworking Queenslanders.

“Every time you open your electricity bill, picture Annastacia Palaszczuk as it’s her Labor Government standing in between you and a better power bill deal.

“Power bill fright means we already have pensioners and our community’s most vulnerable hesitate to turn on the air-conditioner and now that we’ve faced a record-breaking summer, electricity is fast turning into a luxury.

“Whether you’re a family, senior, producer or small business owner, high electricity prices hurt us all and now it’s time for Labor to accept responsibility and write-down the value of state-owned energy assets to save Queenslanders money on our power bills.”

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