



15 May 2008

## **THE SPEECH THAT WILL NEVER BE MADE**

Member for Noosa Glen Elmes was dismayed when the Bligh Government gagged debate on Queensland's Clean Energy Bill when it shut down the debate in Parliament last night (Wednesday, 14 May) after only three speakers.

"This was an extremely important piece of legislation for which I had conducted extensive research and prepared a speech I wanted placed on the public record," Glen Elmes said.

"This legislation was not just for Queensland but for Australia and its standing on the world environmental stage as we address changes that will have an impact on how we live and work in our daily lives.

Mines and Energy Minister Geoff Wilson issued a press release today highlighting the new laws. It's just a real pity that the Opposition wasn't able to present its views and question the Minister on what were some very dubious figures.

"The Bligh Labor Government abandoned the opportunity that would allow ordinary Queenslanders to play a vital role in achieving clean energy.

"The Rudd Labor Government chose to forfeit its first opportunity to make positive in-roads to climate change, putting more emphasis on class warfare than on genuine environmental action and the new Federal Labor Minister, Penny Wong, should hang her head in shame.

"The decision announced in the Federal Budget to take away the \$8000 rebate for solar panels from households earning \$100,000 or more is another blow that will rock the immerging solar panel industry.

"Without the rebate, the cost of installing the average solar photovoltaic system will more than double from about \$5000 to \$13,000.

"I'm at a loss to understand what is so wrong with a subsidy that encourages households to contribute to a scheme that will ultimately return energy credits to them," Glen Elmes said.

"Last night's gagged debate is further evidence that the Queensland Labor Government has no real policy in terms of clean energy so they've chosen the path of least resistance and buried it.

“Once again, it’s all smoke and mirrors. There’s no substance and there’s no commitment,” Glen Elmes said.

“They didn’t achieve anything by gagging the debate; they’ve just denied Queenslanders the first real opportunity they had to make a positive change to energy consumption and allow them control over how they use their energy.

“What we’ll see is what we see each time a Labor Government gets hold of the purse strings: increasing costs and empty coffers.

If anyone would like to see the speech that was never made go to [www.glenelmes.com](http://www.glenelmes.com)

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