

Adam Brooks MP

Liberal Member for Braddon

Shadow Minister for Small Business

Shadow Minister for Hospitality

Shadow Minister for Veterans Affairs

Shadow Minister for Racing

E: adam.brooks@parliament.tas.gov.au

w: www.adambrooks.com.au

Adam Brooks MP on Electrical Pricing

11.39 a.m.]

[Mr BROOKS](#) (Braddon) - While campaigning, I faced two main criticisms of politicians. One was that they never see us and the other was that we never stick to our word. [Mr Aird](#) spoke previously about unethical or immoral behaviour and one would hope that honesty is also relevant. But how long did it take for the Government to say, 'No, we did not mean that. That was just something we told people before the election and now we are happy to throw that out because things have changed'. The cost of living continues to rise and what do we get from this embarrassing Government? It has taken two sitting weeks for it to start. An election promise was made to cap electricity price increases. What do we now hear? 'No, sorry, [Tasmania](#), we didn't mean that. We weren't lying. We just thought we could backflip on it'. Why can you not stick to what is said?

If backflips start this early, how many more are coming? Where does this end? And yet we see this secret report that must be so bad they will not even share it. So much for accountable and open government, where is it? What is in there? It is no wonder that business has no confidence; they do not even know where they stand.

The cost of living is affected by many decisions we make here, but with this electricity price cap, I know that small business now has to pay. Someone has to pay for that as well in small business and if you increase costs like this to small business someone will pay the price. The Premier just mentioned that someone pays, and they cannot control the price of food or anything else, but they can in some way. Small business does not make much money and yet we are going to hammer them and hammer them until there is no more to give so they either put up their prices, which then costs more money for people to consume goods, or they go broke or they reduce their wages and that seems to be quite all right to everyone over there. They cannot afford it so they have to increase their prices. What a surprise, the cost of living just went up again.

The Greens support this increase in cost of living and it is funny that I found [Mr McKim](#), who is not here any more as he has obviously ducked out, stated that "the cost of living for Tasmanian battlers will go through the roof under David [Bartlett](#)" so what does he do, 'No worries, we fully support that increase'.

Ms O'Connor - You people had an opportunity to do something about this, to

accept responsibility, to pick up the phone.

[Mr BROOKS](#) - Fee increases on top of power hikes, so that is fine. You have swapped your principles that you fought the election on to get whatever you got out of the deal. You lot are the biggest bunch of hypocrites because you fought an election on something and then you sold out and said, 'That's fine. Don't worry about that election promise, that's irrelevant'.

I had a pensioner ring me to say that he had no more money, none. The price rises in his electricity will mean that something goes. This gentleman has nothing more to give and nothing more for you two parties to squeeze out of him. Maybe his bingo night - at least that will save his electricity bill if he goes out once a fortnight. This about the cost of living for people who cannot stick up for themselves.

My call is to all Labor ministers in this House, including Ms O'Connor, who is a Labor Cabinet Secretary, and [Mr McKim](#), who is a Labor minister.

Ms O'Connor - He's not a Labor minister.

[Mr BROOKS](#) - I am sorry, he is a minister in a Labor government, my mistake.

Ms O'CONNOR - Point of order, [Mr Deputy Speaker](#). The member for Braddon is misrepresenting the situation. [Mr McKim](#) is not a Labor minister, he is a Greens member with ministerial portfolio responsibilities.

[Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER](#) - That is not a point of order.

[Mr BROOKS](#) - I am sorry, he is a minister in a Labor government, my mistake. I am happy to cop that one and I appreciate the correction.

Ms O'Connor - A Labor minority government.

[Mr BROOKS](#) - You are the Cabinet Secretary but he is a minister in a Labor government that wants to drive up the cost of living for people who cannot afford it and you support that and you, Mr O'Halloran, support that too - well done. Why do you not stick up for those less fortunate instead of making sure you protect your little coalition that wants to backflip and continually be dishonest with people? We need to stick to what we say we are going to do and our issue is that yet again it has taken two weeks to see this.

Ms O'Connor - You were going to build a four-lane Midland Highway.

[Mr BROOKS](#) - So it is my fault that you just drove up the cost of living? That is typical.

Ms O'Connor - No, I am saying what you were going to do.

[Mr BROOKS](#) - Nothing unusual there, [Mr Speaker](#).

The issue is that this Labor-[Green](#) coalition Government supports the cost increase to business, they support the cost increase to pensioners, they support the cost increase to Tasmanians and that is unacceptable.

Time expired.

[11.45 a.m.]

[Mr BACON](#) (Denison) - I welcome the opportunity to speak on this important issue to all Tasmanians. It must be noted that this was the number one thing people raised with me during the recent election campaign and the cost of living has been an essential and constant focus of this Government's agenda. It is an area that Tasmanians rightly expect their political representatives to remain in touch with.

The one thing we have not seen today from anyone opposite is a single suggestion on any real solutions to the problem. It is easy to stand up and identify that the cost of living is a problem, everybody knows that, everyone agrees with that -

[Mr Brooks](#) - So it is okay to mislead the public?

[Mr BACON](#) (Denison) - So I would say the one thing that must be acknowledged is that all members of this House recognise that the cost of living is one of the main issues in [Tasmania](#) at the present time, but it is about time we had some suggestions of real solutions, [Mr Brooks](#) .

[Mr Brooks](#) - Well, get out and we will sort it out for you.