



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

Record of Proceedings, 15 June 2016

TRANSPORT (FEES) AMENDMENT REGULATION (NO. 1)

Disallowance of Statutory Instrument

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (8.43 pm): I rise to add my voice to those of my colleagues who have spoken of their disappointment on behalf of all Queenslanders with the intended rise in the cost of vehicle registration that will occur on 1 July this year. The LNP is moving once again to stop the Palaszczuk Labor government increasing car registration by twice the rate of inflation, by 3.5 per cent, from 1 July this year.

It was the LNP government that froze car registration after the excessive hikes under the Bligh Labor government. Who could forget those dark Bligh and Beattie Labor years of failed public administration? Queensland is already the most expensive place in Australia to own a car, and the Palaszczuk Labor government is treating Queensland motorists like cash cows. The Newman LNP government delivered on its election promise to ease the cost of living for Queensland families when it approved the introduction of cost-of-living reforms as part of its commitment to save Queenslanders having to face excessive increases in the cost of electricity, car registration on family vehicles, stamp duty and public transport fares.

The LNP opposition understands the strain that increasing car registration by 3.5 per cent will put on the family budget. This is an unfair price slug and a broken promise by the Palaszczuk Labor government. When the Newman LNP government froze car registration fees, it saved money for some 2.5 million families throughout Queensland. Today these same families will now struggle, being hit with a further increase for the second year in a row. In dollars and cents this will amount to a rise of about \$12 for a four-cylinder car, \$17 for a six-cylinder car and \$23 for an eight-cylinder car. This comes after an increase of 3.5 per cent in 2015 and, then again, another 3.5 per cent in 2016. This is an unacceptable impost on the family budget. Labor should give families a fair go. The LNP will always give families a fair go.

Sadly, we all remember how under the Bligh Labor government car registration rose by 30 per cent. It was a different time and a different Labor premier but the same old Labor Party—higher fees, higher charges and higher taxes. We on this side of the House understand the many financial burdens of families, and we will work hard to be fair to them. The Palaszczuk Labor government is, as usual, asleep at the wheel, with no plan to get cost-of-living pressures under control.

The current inflation rate or consumer price index, CPI, for the March quarter is 1.7 per cent, and the Palaszczuk Labor government is putting this increase at 3½ per cent—double the rate of inflation. Running the family car is expensive, and the family car is certainly not a luxury item. We the LNP members are committed to keeping car registration increases for the family vehicle to the inflation rate so that Queensland family budgets will not be subjected to an unnecessary strain. We acknowledge that this is a difficult time for many Queensland families—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! Members, the level of conversation in the House is rising rapidly and I am finding it quite hard to hear the member. I am sure that it is very distracting for him. If people could keep their conversation to a minimum, that would be great.

Dr ROWAN: We acknowledge that this is a difficult time for many Queensland families, and we want to ensure fairness is front and centre of the equation when decisions about car registration increases are made.

This is another example of a government with no plan and no initiatives, making it up as they go. This must be seen in the context of increasing overall cost-of-living pressures being created by this asleep-at-the-wheel Labor government; unemployment, which is predicted to increase, with youth unemployment already at 15 per cent; a \$4 billion raid on Public Service superannuation; increasing debt and deficit, with debt forecast to rise to \$78.9 billion by 2019-20; billions of dollars of general government debt already transferred to government owned corporations; infrastructure spending down by 4.7 per cent; and a blow-out in public sector wage costs, with an additional \$3.1 billion in public servants' wages over the next four years. It is the taxpayers of Queensland and my constituents in Moggill who cannot afford to be milked like cash cows with respect to higher car registration. Only the LNP has the experience, the energy, the enthusiasm and the plan to keep car registration fees in Queensland low. I certainly support the LNP's disallowance motion as moved by the member for Glass House.