

Transport Affordability Amendment Bill 2026

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I do not support 50c fares, in the 90's as a young person on low wages we had \$2 bus about tickets that was at the time also considered cheap and affordable, now we run public transport at a loss, the money to operate the services could be going into health or education where it would benefit more vulnerable or protected classes of people.

We always had concession fares, so 50c fares only target people that do not need assistance.

On petrol prices, our prices are set by the international market, I personally don't see them as expensive when you consider the value you receive from it, try walking to your destination and then reconsider the real value and convenience you receive from that expense.

The public owns assets like Geebung train station that is surrounded by low density housing limiting the value we receive from the hundreds of millions of dollars we invested in the infrastructure, maybe letting more people live near transport infrastructure can help the situation. This isn't only a council issue, we pay the salary for a state minister for local government.

I feel the real underlying issue around the burden of paying for transport is the cost of housing which sucks most of the money out of peoples wallets before they even get to a petrol bowser. When people are forced to move further away from where they need to be their cost of transport increases.

As an example, to replace my modest house in case of damage, insurance values that work at over \$750,000, when the cost of replacing a house is that high, it puts a floor under the rental and housing markets. My opinion is that the previous governments building standards are what is causing financial stress by putting an expensive floor under the cost of new or replacement housing, and as housing is a priority and unavoidable expense it is a major contributor to problems for other expenses such as transport.

While I appreciate I'm on a tangent from petrol/transport prices, I am still addressing transport affordability by asserting my opinion that this ultimately a diversion away from the real cause of the daily cost of living stress.

I would also point out that the previous governments "land tax" in reality comes out of renters and businesses pockets before they get to a bowser also.

If we want to address transport affordability seriously I suggest removing the lens from a single issue and addressing it more broadly.

Thanks.