

Transport Affordability Amendment Bill 2026

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Submission in support of the Transport Affordability Amendment Bill 2026

Dr John McPherson AM



I wish to affirm my support for the Transport Affordability Amendment Bill introduced by Mr Bart Mellish MP, Member for Aspley.

The stated objectives of the Bill are to:

- **provide for a head of power to enable fuel price reporting;**

Fuel prices in Brisbane, and no doubt the rest of Queensland have been consistently higher than other state capital cities for a considerable period.¹ Mandatory fuel price reporting as per the Fuel Price Reporting trial would therefore be welcome.

All fuel retailers in Queensland must report their normal fuel prices and changes to these prices.

Normal fuel prices are the prices charged without any discount being applied, and this fuel price information is then made available to consumers via fuel price websites and apps.

Under the Fair Trading (Fuel Price Reporting) Regulation 2018, fuel retailers must report changes within 30 minutes of the price changing at the bowser. If you notice a fuel retailer is reporting incorrect fuel prices, find out where you can make a complaint.²

- **cap daily fuel price increases to no more than 5cents; and**

Limiting daily fuel prices increases to no more than 5c will help suppress the sometimes-unjustified price surges reported by RACQ.³ Western Australia limits intra-day price surges via its FuelWatch system:

Throughout most of WA, fuel retailers are required to notify their next day's retail price for each fuel they sell by 2pm.

¹ <https://www.racq.com.au/news/advocacy/brisbane-drivers-slugged-at-the-bowser-for-third-straight-year>

² <https://www.qld.gov.au/law/your-rights/consumer-rights-complaints-and-scams/buying-products-and-services/buying-products/buying-fuel#fuelpricereportingtrial>

³ <https://www.racq.com.au/news/advocacy/racq-refers-fuel-companies-to-accq-for-price-hike>

Retailers must stay at the notified price from 6am for 24 hours this means WA motorists are free from the frustrating intra-day price fluctuations, which motorists in other Australian States still experience.

WA motorists also have the unique opportunity to make informed decisions about where and when to buy their fuel. WA motorists can access fuel prices at any time, on any day of the week, via this website. Fuel prices are also available via: calling the Consumer Protection Advice Line (during office hours) on 1300 30 40 54; many media outlets; and personalised email subscription service.

Plus the next day's prices are available from 2:30pm. FuelWatch lists the cheapest fuel for today and tomorrow – giving you the power to buy your fuel at the most competitive price.⁴

By placing a 5c ceiling on daily fuel price increases Queensland will surpass this creditable Western Australian initiative.

- **require the government of the day to pass a motion in the Legislative Assembly (with 28 days' notice) before public transport fares can be increased from the current 50 cents.**

The benefits of the 50c fares should be as tightly embedded in legislation as possible. This objective is therefore supported.

The 50c fares have seen very significant statewide increases in public transport patronage in all modalities^{5, 6, 7}. This has also resulted in significant cost of living relief as per a Queensland Government media release published Monday, 04 August, 2025 at 09:46 AM:

More than 96 million trips have so far been taken on public transport since the LNP's Permanent 50 Cent Fares were introduced - delivering cost of living relief and saving Queenslanders almost \$200 million.⁸

An ABC article further expands on the public savings⁹.

The 50c fares have done much to positively influence public opinion of public transport:

Deputy Director-General of the Department of Transport and Main Roads, Dr Deborah Hume, says public sentiment towards 50 cent

⁴ <https://www.fuelwatch.wa.gov.au/about/works>

⁵ <https://statements.qld.gov.au/statements/103254>

⁶ <https://www.railexpress.com.au/strong-results-after-50-cent-fares-made-permanent/>

⁷ <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-02-10/queensland-50c-fares-public-transport-analysis/104910866>

⁸ <https://statements.qld.gov.au/statements/103254>

⁹ <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-02-10/queensland-50c-fares-public-transport-analysis/104910866>

fares has “far exceeded expectations”, with 53 percent claiming their overall public transport experience has improved.

Since 50 cent fares, customers have rated almost every aspect of their trip more favourably, including measures not obviously linked to value for money.

“Customer sentiment about the value of public transport has bounced up across the spectrum. Customers even feel safer on public transport, since we introduced 50 cent fares,” Dr Hume said.

“It is amazing to see how much it affected overall perception of the system.”

As a result, public transport patronage has boomed across the state, and continues to be strong.

Pre-launch, 86 percent of people surveyed supported it, and the figure reached 92 percent within months of its introduction.

Dr Hume said some measures turned out to be superfluous.

“Most of the buses we deployed to be on standby were not needed. Of course, 50 cent fares has given us increased patronage – but not to the scale of giving customers a bad user experience,” she said.¹⁰

The social, economic and environmental benefits of the 50c fares are obvious and should therefore have strong legislative protection.

¹⁰ <https://www.informa.com.au/insight/how-have-50c-fares-impacted-public-transport-usage-in-qld/>