



Speech by

Hon. STEVE BREDHAUER

MEMBER FOR COOK

Hansard 24 August 2000

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Boat Registration Concessions

Hon. S. D. BREDHAUER (Cook—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads) (9.49 a.m.), by leave: Concessions are an important part of the Government's policy to ensure that people with low incomes can continue to enjoy a reasonable standard of living and quality of life. They help make essential services more accessible to those who need them most. The Government allocates significant funds for the provision of concessions to pensioners, seniors and others on low income for services such as health, household expenses, recreation, education and transport. However, some inconsistent policies have led to confusion and frustration.

Until now, a person could walk into a Queensland Transport Customer Service Centre and discover that they were eligible for concessions for their motor vehicle registration, but ineligible for a concession on their boat registration. In other cases, discounts were payable on both, but were for different amounts. As of next Friday, 1 September, Queensland boat registration concessions will be brought into line with motor vehicle concessions. The changes mean that more Queenslanders will be eligible for concessions, and for others the discount will double.

From 1 September, all Pensioner Concession Card holders will be entitled to 50% discount on one vessel, regardless of the rate or type of pension. Also from that date, the Queensland Seniors Card discount will double to 50%. Holders of a Totally and Permanently Incapacitated—TPI—war pension will continue to receive a 100% concession. Although vessel registration fees are relatively inexpensive in Queensland, the difference will mean an important saving for some. The concession for registration of a small boat or dingy will be \$20.45. The saving on a small half-cabin cruiser will be \$35.85. And the concession on registration of a retiree's dream boat, for instance, a 10-metre cruiser or trailer-sailor, will be \$51.20.

Queensland's coastal and inland waterways provide important sporting and recreational opportunities for our older residents and people with a disability. These changes will put money in the pockets of more boating enthusiasts, giving them a financial hand to enjoy the water in a safe manner. Other important concessions provided by the State Government in the Transport portfolio include vehicle registration discounts, rail, bus, ferry and taxi fare discounts. The 50% concession to pensioners and seniors on the registration fee for a four-cylinder car is \$84.80. On a six-cylinder car they save \$130.30. QR passenger rail services are offered at one half of the adult fare to pensioners and seniors. In addition, holders of Pensioner Concession Cards receive four travel vouchers annually, each of which provides one free single economy journey on any QR service, except the north Queensland tourist trains. The vouchers can be combined to allow the pensioner one free return first-class journey.

This Government recently expanded the Taxi Subsidy Scheme to include more categories of people with a disability, offering eligible passengers a 50% concession. In line with the Government's social justice objectives, all public transport contracts require operators of urban bus and ferry services to provide half-fare concessions to seniors and pensioners. With the support of the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care, this Government provides significantly more benefits to seniors and pensioners than any previous Government. This shows the Government's commitment to ensuring that some of the benefits of this State's success and growth flow to those in most need.