



Speech by

Mike Horan

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Hansard Wednesday, 6 June 2007

REVENUE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Mr HORAN (Toowoomba South—NPA) (3.04 pm): The bill before the House will bring about some of the greatest increases in the cost of buying or transferring a car that Queenslanders have ever seen. This bill has aptly been described by our shadow treasurer as a wolf in sheep's clothing. I wonder how members of the government will go back to their electorates and tell the battlers, the people who rely on cars and heavy vehicles, about the hundreds of dollars extra they will pay to register or transfer a vehicle. The whacky, loony Left have control of the Treasury benches in this state and the stupidity that we see does not take into account the distances in Queensland, the needs of contractors, the mining industry, families or the bus industry. This is ripping hundreds of millions of dollars out of the pockets of ordinary Queenslanders.

I will be going back to my electorate and telling everybody what the government is doing. One would think that in a time of economic boom—when we have rivers of money from GST, royalties from the mining industry and the Treasurer speaking about all the income that is coming in—the government could find money for mental health rather than raiding the pockets of every single motorist who buys a car, ute, truck or bus in Queensland. What we are seeing is hundreds of millions of dollars ripped out of the pockets of these people. It will make cars dearer. The money is supposedly going to mental health. It should be coming out of the normal taxes that are used for mental health. The money is not even going to roads.

This legislation will punish the people of rural Queensland who require heavier vehicles because of the long distances they travel, the poor roads and the fact that they have to use their vehicles on their properties. Rural people need a large vehicle if they are going to bring home barbed wire, fertiliser or seed. I will give members an example. The latest Toyota LandCruiser diesel utility trayback is now a V8. It has straight-line diesel technology that is more efficient than a six-cylinder. People who buy that car, the company and those dealers will be punished because they actually have a V8 that is more efficient and is the latest technology. Vehicles such as the LandCruiser and Nissan Patrols have helped build the construction and mining industry and the nation. The subbies in the electorates of all members who have to go over rough ground and gutters into construction sites carrying heavy loads will be punished. They will literally have their transfer fee doubled because they have to work hard producing pipelines, buildings or whatever it is they are doing. They are hardworking people who actually get out there and earn the money and provide the services that make this state tick.

Those in the mining industry need a large, strong, stable vehicle. The mining industry that is contributing so much to our state will be hit again; it will be punished because of necessity. As miners live remotely and often travel over rough country, they need a large vehicle with eight cylinders or six cylinders. The whacky, loony Left that is in charge of Treasury seems to think that a four-cylinder Corolla can be driven around in mines and on construction sites. It is all right around bitumen streets in town, but there are other needs that people have.

What about families? How many members know families who have three or four kids? All they can afford is a second-hand Ford Falcon. They need a car that they can put three or four kids in and take to school or sport. These families will pay another \$240 transfer fee to buy a \$16,000 second-hand Falcon. It is the battlers and families who will pay this fee.

Let us look at the rates of increase. There is an increase of two per cent to three per cent for a four-cylinder car, which is a 50 per cent increase. For a six-cylinder car, the increase is from two per cent to 3½ per cent, an increase of 75 per cent. For an eight-cylinder car, the increase is from two per cent to four per cent—it doubles—which is a 100 per cent increase.

What about the trucking industry? So much of Queensland relies on trucks, including those that cart coal. Up our way we have hundreds of trucks that cart coal. QR cannot cart the coal from the downs so trucks are coming through 24 hours a day. Look at all the pipes being carried for the pipeline. Look at all the construction around the state. Look at the trucks going interstate. Look at the trucks all over our state. Everywhere in Queensland relies on trucks, and those truckies are going to be paying around \$4,000 or \$5,000 extra—and my colleague will have more accurate figures—every time they want to register a truck or transfer the registration of a truck.

I want to speak particularly about the primary industries. I think what is happening in this bill is a real belt for the Blueprint for the Bush. We need to look at how much extra these trucks which cart livestock or grain will cost. Those big prime movers probably cost about \$250,000—

Mr Johnson: \$380,000.

Mr HORAN: Well, \$380,000, I am told. How much more duty will people pay on those, and what will that add to the cost of running those trucks? And this is at a time when fuel prices and diesel prices are at an all-time high. The trucking industry, the bus industry, the building industry, the mining industry and people who just drive to work or take their kids to school—they all face unprecedented fuel bills and now they will have this massive increase in the actual cost of registering their car or transferring the registration if they buy a second-hand car.

I am actually amazed that government members support this particular clause. I bet it hurts a lot of them when they think what it will do to the people in their electorate who cannot afford this extra money, particularly the families and those people who make our state and make our nation. This is going to hit everybody who gets out there and works. It will hit all the trades men and women, all the people involved in building and contracting, all the people in the mining industry and, as I said, in particular the families.

I hope that organisations like AgForce come out in massive protest about this, because they have been duded on the Blueprint for the Bush when things like this slip through. This will affect every livestock haulier, every grain haulier, everybody who needs a larger vehicle because of the nature of the business they do and where they live; they will all be punished.

Our shadow Treasurer spoke about a way around this. There could have been a big incentive if this were truly and genuinely about the environment and about people moving to hybrid cars. We all know that at the moment a hybrid car cannot be used to pull cattle trucks, coal trucks and all the rest of them; those workers have to use what they have at the moment—that is, big diesel trucks. The government could have implemented a real reduction in the cost of transferring registration to make it cheaper to buy a hybrid car. That could have been an incentive for those people who can buy those cars and use them in the environment in which they live and work.

The government is punishing all those people who are the salt of the earth of our state and who get out there and work, and it is punishing families with this massive increase. It is not like it is a two or three per cent increase or a CPI increase; it is a 50 per cent increase, a 75 per cent increase and a 100 per cent increase. How much harder will it make it for car dealers, be they new or second-hand dealers, to operate a business now because everything they trade and deal in will be that much more expensive? Car dealers cannot offer a deal on stamp duty; that is fixed. All they can do is try to shave a bit more and a bit more off their margin or put off staff because it will be a bit harder to sell cars as they become less affordable.

I hope members on the government side think about this when it comes to debating this particular clause. This will not do anything for our environment. All this will do is hit the working people of Queensland. It is nothing more than an absolute tax grab by a government that will have racked up \$51.5 billion in borrowings by the year 2010, which at seven per cent interest will mean that every man, woman and child in this state will be contributing about \$3.5 billion a year in interest repayments.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! You are discussing a bill that is before the House.

Mr HORAN: I am referring to this bill, because that is what these increases are for—to meet the commitments. It is bringing in more income to the government under the guise that it is for mental health.

I could not speak more strongly about this. This is a mad, massive tax increase that will hit Queenslanders in the pocket—every single one of them. I think it is absolutely disgraceful that the government has come into this parliament and will vote for 50 per cent, 75 per cent and 100 per cent increases in the stamp duty to be charged on people who have cars, utilities, trucks and buses and who are the lifeblood of this state.