



Speech by
Jeff Seeney

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Hansard Wednesday, 3 June 2009

FUEL SUBSIDY

Mr SEENEY (Callide—LNP) (11.42 am): After 12 years the Labor government in Queensland is finally going to get its way and have Queenslanders slugged with a fuel tax. For 12 years now Queensland has been the only state that has not had to pay a fuel tax. It has been one of the great legacies of the last conservative government in Queensland. In 1997 the coalition government recognised the impact that a fuel tax would have on Queenslanders and moved to ensure that the fuel tax that was levied by the Commonwealth government was returned to Queenslanders to compensate them for the distances that are involved in the geography of Queensland.

For 12 years the Labor government has sought every opportunity to erode that fuel tax, to erode the credibility of that legacy of the coalition government and has looked for any excuse to take that 9c out of the pockets of Queensland motorists. It appears that by 1 July it will have finally succeeded in eroding that great legacy of the coalition government and imposed a fuel tax on Queensland motorists.

A fuel tax will have a profound effect on every Queenslander who owns and operates a motor car. It will have the greatest effect on those people who live in rural and regional Queensland where long distance travel on a weekly or daily basis is a fact of life. Those Queenslanders have no option but to use fuel in large quantities. For those people to be slugged by a Labor government is an outrage. It is an outrage for the Labor government to use the imposition of a fuel tax on those people as a source of funds to try to cover its economic mismanagement that has seen it go broke in a boom and rack up a record level of debt. It has now turned to a fuel tax to try to cover its own economic mismanagement.