



Speech by

Shane Knuth

MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE

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MOTOR ACCIDENT INSURANCE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Mr KNUTH (Dalrymple—LNP) (4.45 pm): I rise to speak in the debate on the Motor Accident Insurance and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. In the minister's second reading speech he said that the amendments to the Motor Accident Insurance Act 1994 contained in the bill are the culmination of the government's commitment in this year's state budget to deliver a CTP scheme that provides value for money for Queensland's motor vehicle owners. These reforms to the CTP scheme will deliver a cut to the total registration bill paid by Queenslanders from 1 October this year.

This \$24 saving is welcome because \$24 is a lot of money to the average battlers out there. However, the cost of drivers' licences is set to double. Our fuel subsidy has been removed. This is supposed to be a sweetener. We have a massive debt of \$85,000 million. This government is using whatever means it can to rip people off.

For example, on Friday my office was filled with angry small mining leaseholders who are incensed about new laws which have snuck into the system. They are being hit with whopping bills of \$6,000 for leases that in some cases no longer exist. A letter from DERM advises miners that leases will now be paid in advance. Miners now have to make a payment to the environmental authority of \$500 for each lease. It was previously \$200 for each lease. This has to be paid every year whether or not the lease has been granted. In previous years it was a one-off payment that would last for the term of the lease.

It gets worse. Incredibly, some miners have been asked to pay the increase in fee backdated to before the new legislation came into effect on 1 January 2009. One miner who owns several leases is facing a fee of \$10,000, with more bills rolling in by the day. Not only are they facing these exorbitant bills which are backdated but the miners have also found out that this will not be a one-off fee but a fee that will need to be paid every year.

The environmental authority is immediately activated when a mining lease application is made. The charges are applied at that time. The applications usually take years to be granted. The miners are thus required to pay for leases that they do not own and may not even be granted. These small miners are scrambling to find thousands of dollars to pay for unexpected bills. I call on the minister to investigate this issue.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Ryan): Order! Member for Dalrymple, I am calling you to order. The bill relates to the motor accident insurance scheme. It is for particular purposes. I ask you to direct your comments to the purposes of the bill. I call the member.

Mr KNUTH: I have an issue with third-party access. If a driver hits a kangaroo or a pig in our rural or regional areas there is no chance to claim that insurance. I think that needs to be investigated. If the passenger is hurt, that is different. That is something that needs to be looked at. I wanted to bring that to the attention of the House.