



Speech by

Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Hansard Tuesday, 15 November 2011

MOTION: COST OF LIVING



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Multicultural Affairs) (5.45 pm): I move—

That all words after 'condemns' be deleted and the following words inserted—

'the LNP's complete failure to release costed and funded policies and acknowledges the initiatives of the 2011-12 state budget to:

- abolish the ambulance levy from electricity bills;
- increase rebates for electricity for low-income groups; and
- increase the local government rates rebate for pensioners.

Further, that this House calls on the LNP to table costed policies in the parliament at the next sitting.'

This government has a very proud record of delivering public transport for people in South-East Queensland and for people in regional Queensland. We have seen the largest integrated ticketing system established in South-East Queensland, encompassing some 10,000 square kilometres, where 80 per cent of the people are using the go card and there are two million go cards out there.

I ask members to compare those figures to figures in the other states. Two weeks ago the *Australian Financial Review* advertised in Sydney for people to come there to put together an integrated ticketing system. That legislation has just passed through the House in New South Wales. Down in Victoria, the situation is even worse. Twenty per cent of people are using the myki system there. For the opposition to come in here and criticise the record of this government is beyond belief. The other side has nothing. It has no policies—absolutely nothing at all. We have continued to invest in public transport. Every single dollar that we collect through fares goes back into growing our transport network. The opposition has uncoded policies. It has not said what it will slash to introduce its policies. For every \$1 that a passenger pays, the state government puts in \$3. This is a commitment that we will stand by and continue to abide by.

Over the past two years we have added more than 300,000 weekly seats to our network, and we will continue to add that year after year after year. You have not stated whether you support this, and from your recent announcement—the policy that you announced with Campbell Newman—you would actually slash 150,000 seats—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable minister will direct her comments through the chair.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Our recent timetable overhaul delivered 150,000 seats, and shortly I will be releasing the consultation for the second stage of our timetable overhaul. As the Attorney-General—a former transport minister—stated, we have a proud recording of delivering world-class bus networks in South-East Queensland. We opened the second stage of the Eastern Busway just recently, adding an extra 100,000 seats. But we are seeing real benefits for the public in the outer suburbs of Brisbane. When it comes to delivering bus services and rail services in the inner city, we have had high frequency but we are now seeing those services being delivered in the outer suburbs. I can remember that when I was growing up in Inala we did not even have a Brisbane City Council bus service—absolutely nothing.

Mr Lucas: Tory councils wouldn't give buses to Wynnum or Inala.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. There was absolutely nothing. It took a Jim Soorley Labor council to implement buses for us. With our expansion and our investment in public transport we have been able to

deliver for people living in Inala, Forest Lake and Mount Gravatt. We are delivering off-peak frequency of every 15 minutes for a bus. What does that mean? That means there is no need for a timetable; people can turn up and go. From the days of Sallyanne Atkinson, when there were no Brisbane City Council buses out there, this Labor government has delivered buses and has delivered high-frequency bus services. We will continue to do that right across South-East Queensland.

We will continue to invest in growing our rail networks. Work on the Darra-Richlands line is going extremely well, and the first sod has been turned on the rail line out to Springfield. We also have Gold Coast Rapid Transit and the Moreton Bay Rail Link.

How could I let this opportunity go by without talking about what the shadow minister for transport said when he was asked about fare increases. Time and time again Spencer Howson asked him questions. 'What are you going to do if you get into government?' was the first question. The second question was, 'Well, what are you going to do as transport minister if the LNP is elected?' The third question was, 'Right, so I will ask you a third time: what are you going to do about the transport fares when you are the transport minister, Scott Emerson?' Again there was silence. Again there was nothing—absolutely nothing.

Mr EMERSON: I rise to a point of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Stop the clock. Minister, resume your seat. I will hear the point of order.

Mr EMERSON: The minister is misleading the House. As she knows, there were answers to each of those questions.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order. Resume your seat.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Spencer Howson said, 'So you are not going to promise this morning that you will revise and review the fare increases that have been promised since 2009. You are not going to be able to make this commitment this morning?' What did you say? Nothing! Spencer Howson, 'Thank you for calling in. That was the shadow minister, Scott Emerson.'

Mr EMERSON: I rise to a point of order again, Mr Speaker.

Ms PALASZCZUK: 'Just to summarise that, I think under the LNP government the fees will go up the same amount as they are going up under the ALP government.'

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The minister's time has expired. The honourable the member for Indooroopilly on a point of order.

Mr EMERSON: Once again, Mr Speaker—

Ms PALASZCZUK: I table the full transcript.

Tabled paper: Copy of a Media Monitors transcript of interview between Mr Scott Emerson MP and Spencer Howson regarding public transport fares, ABC 612 Brisbane, breakfast program [\[5870\]](#).

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Resume your seat. The honourable the member for Indooroopilly.

Mr EMERSON: Once again, the minister is misleading the House. There were answers to those questions. I would ask that the minister withdraws those comments because she has misled the House.

Ms PALASZCZUK: How have I misled the House? I am quoting what Spencer Howson said.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Just resume your seat. The minister will resume her seat. There is no point of order under that provision.