



Speech by

## Fiona Simpson

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

Hansard Wednesday, 3 August 2011

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### TRANSPORT LEGISLATION (FEES) AMENDMENT REGULATION (NO. 1) 2011

**Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (7.45 pm): I second this disallowance motion. We are voting against this rip-off—against Labor ripping off the people of Queensland, who have been ripped off under this government. They have been ripped off as you have wasted their money, as you have put your sticky fingers into their pockets and you have ripped out their last dollar, as you have put up the cost of living in this state, as you put real burdens upon people—Queenslanders—who live in this state.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Maroochydore, the Speaker has made it quite clear about the use of the word 'you' in this parliament and I would ask you to respect his ruling in that regard.

**Ms SIMPSON:** This government has been ripping the last dollar out of many struggling Queenslanders' pockets. It called itself the party of the battlers and instead has created another generation of battlers because of its ineptitude, because of its mismanagement, because it did not respect the value of the dollar of Queenslanders who wanted to get on with their lives.

We are voting against this hike in registration fees which will again put Queensland in the situation of being the leading state for the wrong reason—the leading state for the highest state expenses to run a car in Australia. That is a disgrace! We have seen a government that has wasted money. It has more than doubled the cost of a driver's licence over the next few years because it broke its promise and wasted more than \$100 million in boosting the costs of the project for the new Queensland driver's licence. It broke its promise and took away the fuel tax rebate in Queensland, effectively putting in place a fuel tax upon Queenslanders worth more than 9c a litre. It broke its promise and increased taxes upon motorists with these registration hikes which mean that we will have seen something like a 30 per cent increase in registration costs for motorists in Queensland over the last couple of years.

Has that money gone into roads? Interestingly enough, no. What we have seen in the last 12 months is this Labor government put up registration fees and put on the fuel tax but actually cut state funding for roads by a quarter of a billion dollars, or about \$250 million. What about this year as it is seeking to hike registrations yet again? While it is still taking its grab of the state fuel tax out of Queenslanders' pockets, it has further cut the state contribution to roads by \$326 million. This government is a rip-off merchant. It talks about looking after people while it rips them off, and enough is enough! We have seen a litany of mistakes whereby this government has wasted Queenslanders' money and then it has the audacity to run around and hold these stalls saying that 'every dollar counts'. It is a little bit like false advertising, where retailers can be fined if they put their prices up and then they put out a banner saying that they have discounted their prices and people are saving money.

This Labor government has put up the costs for motorists by a record amount. So any so-called concessions are far short of the increase in costs. The facts speak for themselves. There has never been such a situation in Queensland where the increase in motoring costs has hurt so much. It seems that the government is truly against the ordinary person who has to drive a car. Why on earth does the government not get that many Queenslanders depend upon driving a car? The members opposite are ideologues who

believe that people should not be driving cars so they will tax them out of existence. But instead of spending the revenue from those taxes on roads, they cut investment in roads. So we stand against this rip-off. We stand against this further hike in registration fees. I commend the shadow minister for moving this disallowance motion, because it clearly gives us an opportunity to highlight the hypocrisy of this government, to highlight the fact that it has failed those who are hurting, including those people in business who have found that these increased costs have placed a severe burden upon them.

There is a stark difference between our side and the Labor side. Over the past few years we have seen Queensland receive a record amount of income. However, there has also been a record amount of waste. Now, thanks to Labor, we see a record hike in the cost of running a car in Queensland. Let us not forget that we saw more than \$280 million wasted by this Labor government on a Health payroll system that has failed to pay its nurses. More than \$2 billion was spent on a white elephant water recycling plant. That amount is equivalent to the cost of building a new hospital. The government wasted \$600 million on the failed Traveston Crossing Dam. That money would have funded much needed upgrades to the dangerous Cooroy to Curra section of the Bruce Highway. Then there was the \$450 million that was spent on the Traveston Dam pipeline.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr O'Brien): Order! None of these matters are relevant to the motion.

**Ms SIMPSON:** I will give you the relevance, Mr Deputy Speaker, because that particular project—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Maroochydore, none of the matters that you have raised are relevant to the motion that is currently before the House. You will bring your comments back to the motion now.

**Ms SIMPSON:** I will most happily do that. That \$450 million that was wasted on that pipeline would have built over 300 kilometres of two-laned sealed rural and regional roads.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No, member for Maroochydore, I have asked you to bring your comments back to the motion and you have not done that.

**Ms SIMPSON:** With respect, Mr Deputy Speaker—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will give you a last chance.

**Ms SIMPSON:** The government is hiking registration fees, but it is not putting that money into roads. What I have highlighted is that when the government asks, 'Where is the money coming from?' we say, 'You cut the waste. You stop making those incompetent decisions and you start respecting the value of the dollar of ordinary Queenslanders who have paid for your incompetence.' They have paid for the Blich Labor government's incompetence. They deserve to be heard and they are as angry as hell. They have had enough of being ripped off by a government that has lost touch with the ordinary people. It is about time there was a true respect for those people who are paying the cost of some of the government's highest increases in taxation.

**Ms Struthers** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Minister for Community Services!

**Ms SIMPSON:** That is why we stand against this registration hike. That is why we stand against this rip-off of Queenslanders by this government. That is why we stand against yet another lie—yet another untruth that has been told by this government.

**Ms Struthers** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Maroochydore, order! Minister for Community Services, I have asked you three times now to come order. I warn you under standing order 253A.

**Ms SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. We stand against this rip-off and we vote against this hike in registration fees.