




Speech By
Ann Leahy

MEMBER FOR WARREGO

Record of Proceedings, 3 June 2015

TRANSPORT LEGISLATION (FEES) AMENDMENT REGULATION (NO. 1): DISALLOWANCE OF STATUTORY INSTRUMENT

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (9.06 pm): I rise to support the disallowance motion. I note from looking at the speaking list that, aside from the Treasurer, there is just one government MP from outside South-East Queensland who has stood in this chamber tonight to try to justify this tax hike.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Ryan): Order! Member for Warrego, previous Speakers have made rulings about reflecting on whether a member is on the list or off the list. Can I direct you to those previous rulings and ask you to refrain.

Ms LEAHY: This is a 3.5 per cent tax increase in car registration. It could not come at a more difficult time for the people of my electorate. Families are doing their best to deal with the effects of drought. The last thing they need is a state taxation increase on the family car. These families do not just have pressure from cost-of-living expenses; they are trying to survive.

We were reminded today that 80 per cent of the state is drought declared. So not only are families doing it tough in my electorate, others are doing it tough in 80 per cent of the state. The family car is essential in rural and regional areas. People just do not have public transport. They cannot walk down the road to catch the bus, the ferry or the passenger train. For many in rural and regional Queensland their only option is to use the family car to travel to and from work, to take the children to the doctor, to pick up the groceries or to take the children to school. Mums and dads will be the ones who will bear the brunt of this 3.5 per cent tax increase. About a million families will cop it in the hip pocket thanks to the Labor government, and many of those families will be in regional Queensland.

The mums and dads are trying to pay off the mortgage, pay the rent, keep their job, deal with the resources downturn in regional Queensland, educate their children. They will get slugged with an additional registration tax increase from this government. They already pay a lot more for fuel and now they will be paying a lot more for car registration.

This is a tax increase that families were not told about before the state election. We are back on the slippery slope of tax increases with this registration increase. Let us not forget the bad old days when Labor increased registration by 30 per cent in four years. Where are those people at the cabinet table who are supposed to be standing up for rural and regional families? The reason the LNP moved this disallowance motion is that we care about rural and regional families.

Mrs Frecklington: Thank God they've got you out there, Ann.

Ms LEAHY: I take the interjection from the member for Nanango.

Ms Grace: You're the only one who does.

Ms LEAHY: I take the interjection. We do need to stand up for these people. They are doing it very tough.

I compare this tax increase with what the LNP actually did in government. The LNP froze the family car registration for three years and it was very welcome in regional and rural Queensland. They also made a lot of improvements to the Warrego Highway. In fact, I think around \$1 billion worth of work went into the Warrego Highway, and also of great assistance to my electorate was that they secured a major project, the second range crossing.

But here we have tonight another tax. It is another tax on families who are doing it tough and they cannot afford that. They already have significant cost-of-living pressures. They are trying to survive. That is why I rise tonight in the parliament to support the disallowance motion.