




Speech By
Christopher Whiting

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBIDGE

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

 **Mr WHITING** (Murrumbidgee—ALP) (8.43 pm): I rise to oppose this disallowance motion in relation to the Transport Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation. We have heard the member for Indooroopilly accusing us of blackmail by linking this to roads funding. I will give members a real example of blackmail: it was during the election campaign when Campbell Newman stood up on Boundary Road at North Lakes with the then member and said, 'If you do not vote for an LNP member you're not going to get the Boundary Road overpass.' Well, guess what? We got rid of the LNP and we got the Boundary Road overpass and we did not have to sell assets. Now, that was blackmail.

We have heard a lot about how the other side of the House had frozen registration fees. What did they really freeze? They froze infrastructure. What have those opposites built? One thing: this large phallic-like building over the road, One William Street. That is their legacy. That is the only thing they have built. They froze doing infrastructure.

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Ryan): Order! Member for Murrumbidgee, we will wait for the House to come to order. Member for Toowoomba North, your interjections are disorderly and if they persist I will be warning you under the standing orders. I call the member for Murrumbidgee.

Mr WHITING: The key words that describe this disallowance tonight are 'hypocritical', 'opportunistic' and 'irresponsible'. Hypocritical because those opposites were going to introduce it anyway if they were returned to government. If they had won they would have introduced a 3.5 per cent car registration increase from 1 July. They factored it into their midyear review released on 18 December last year. Table 18 on page 25 of their midyear review clearly shows the revenue by car registration increasing by 3.5 per cent and adding in a natural increase as well.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr WHITING: I take that interjection. It is an estimate. They were so convinced of it they made the estimate twice. They put it in there twice. They are saying, 'Don't believe us, we only wrote it twice.' It is irresponsible because it is untrue to say that we have the most expensive car registration in Australia. That is what those members opposite have been going out and saying in recent times. It is simply not true. Let me give members the facts. For a small car in New South Wales a person pays \$280 weight, \$62 rego, add in \$599 for third-party and the bill is \$945.70. In Victoria a person pays \$270 rego and no other fees. Add in CTP of \$487.30 and it is \$757.70. In Queensland it is \$280.05 in rego, plus \$48 traffic improvement levy. Add in your CTP of \$323.60 and the bill is \$652.50. In New South Wales it is \$945; Victoria, \$757; Queensland, for a small car, \$652. What those opposites have been saying is simply untrue.

It is irresponsible to bring this up because we need the funds to build roads in Queensland. If this does get up tonight this will cost the state \$51.829 million in 2015-16. If this freeze continues over the next four years the state could lose \$580.3 million. What will that mean to our roads projects? Does the other side want to cut the flood-proofing works on the Yeppen Floodplain? That is \$50 million and 350 jobs. There is \$21 million in safety works going on west of the Great Divide on the Warrego Highway. Do those opposite want to cut that \$21 million and sack those 210 workers?

Opposition members interjected.

Mr WHITING: What about the North Brisbane Bikeway Stage 2 along McDonald Road in the electorate of Clayfield? Does the member for Clayfield want to dump that one? What about the \$6.9 million that is needed for the Victoria Point Bus Station at Redland Bay Road? Does the member for Redlands want to cut that one? What will this registration freeze mean for the 28,000 workers on all our road-building projects in Queensland? Let me point out that the member for Indooroopilly has form when it comes to job losses due to cuts. As the former minister for transport he presided over the loss of 2,000 jobs from his department. That was 22.4 per cent; one in five workers.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Ryan): The House will come to order. It is getting a bit rowdy in the chamber. People will have to respect the standing orders and respect the Speaker.

Mr WHITING: I hear a lot from the other side about the roads that they need in their areas. How will we pay for these road projects if \$580 million is stripped out of the budget over the next four years? How can those opposite face their electorate and say they have lobbied for these projects when they have voted to reduce the funding for these projects? That is what they will be saying to their electors: they have voted to take away money from road projects in their area.

It is irresponsible and hypocritical because it leaves a big black hole in the budget. This irresponsibility is to be expected: their side is always leaving massive holes in budgets; it is in their DNA. Look at what happened with Hockey in the recent second budget, with Queensland facing an \$18 billion funding shortfall in health and education over the next decade. They have no regard for the integrity of public budgets and how we actually fund projects. It is opportunistic because they actually do not believe in this. It is only a tactic. It is part of a larger strategy of mischief and mayhem. In the end they do not really want to strip money from road projects in their areas. However, if they do vote for it, we will be telling their electors that this is what they have done.