




Speech By
Dale Last

MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

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

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (9.01 pm): I rise to speak in support of the disallowance motion moved in this parliament on 2 June regarding the Transport Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, subordinate legislation No. 25 of 2015, tabled in the House on 19 May. I am a member of the Utilities, Science and Innovation Committee and this amendment regulation was tabled at today's committee meeting, noting that a disallowance motion was before the House.

The current government indexation policy was confirmed on 22 April 2015 at 3.5 per cent. It speaks volumes for this government that they expect motor vehicle owners to pay these increases without any consideration of the impact these registration price rises will have on Queenslanders. The costs associated with this amendment are substantial.

If we look at the registration component without the traffic improvement and CTP fees, the registration component for a small car will rise by \$9.80, for a medium car by \$15.50 and for a large car by \$21.75. Add to this skyrocketing insurance premiums and fuel prices and we start to understand the implication these proposed increases will have on household budgets.

Let us not forget that the average household has two motor vehicles which will lead to further misery for already cash-strapped owners. At the present time, with the exception of the ACT, we have the most expensive registration fees in Australia. I cannot in all honesty stand here tonight and support an increase in fees that would give us the unwanted title of the most expensive state in Australia in which to register a motor vehicle.

We received a briefing from the director-general of the Department of Transport and Main Roads regarding Queensland's road network and the increasing number of vehicles using our roads. Queensland is a vast state. In regional and rural areas the humble motor vehicle is, in many cases, the only form of transport.

Try telling the families without jobs in Bowen and Collinsville or the farmers in the Burdekin who are already facing crippling costs associated with electricity prices and insurance costs that they will need to pay more for their registration. We do not have public transport in these areas in the form of buses, electric trains and ferries. Without these options residents are forced to rely on a motor vehicle for transport. I know of several uni students who drive from the Burdekin to James Cook University each day. For these cash-strapped students the proposed increases are simply not affordable.

The people in the Burdekin electorate and, for that matter, most of the rural and regional Queensland areas are doing it tough. Now is not the time to sting household budgets through substantial hikes in registration fees.

This should be seen for what it is—a money grab by a government desperate to raise funds without any regard for the impact this will have on ordinary Queenslanders. The previous LNP government froze family car registration fees during the last term because they knew how tough

Queenslanders were doing it. Motor vehicle registration should not be seen as a cash cow for government to exploit at will. Already I have received a number of calls from my constituents complaining bitterly about the proposed increases.

We heard the Premier earlier today say in this chamber that her government is a 'listening government'. The message coming loud and clear from the community is that they do not support the proposed increases in registration fees. I urge all members to take on board that feedback when they vote on this disallowance motion tonight.