




Speech By
Fiona Simpson

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

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

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (8.15 pm): I think they are sniffing their petrol fumes. The excitement is going to their heads! What I hear is almost a frivolity about the fact that Labor will raise car registration fees in this state yet again—way above the inflation rate. One thing about Labor does not change: they have no hesitation in putting their hands into the pockets of everyday taxpayers. This is an unjustified hike in the cost of car registration. This is way beyond the inflation rate. There is no justification. It is gouging motorists' finances. I will vote against Labor's outrageous hike to the cost of car rego. It is 2½ times CPI.

Mr Rickuss interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Grace): Order! Member for Lockyer. There is too much conversation between everyone. Can we quieten down a little bit tonight. Settle down.

Ms SIMPSON: I have heard nothing from the Labor government that justifies this. It is way beyond the current CPI rate, which we now know is at 1.4 per cent. This is an increase of 3.5 per cent. I am voting against it because it is unfair and it is wrong. It is whacking those who can least afford it.

All I hear from Labor members opposite is justification rather than a real reason. People in this state are about to experience things going back to the way they were before Labor lost in 2012. Last time Labor were in government, Queensland became the most expensive place in Australia in which to register a family car. They have learned nothing. Car registration went up by 30 per cent over four years. Labor's hikes made Queensland the most expensive place for people to register their cars. Now they are back in power but they have learned nothing. All we have heard are excuses. They have learned nothing. They still think motorists should pay way above the inflation rate for registering a car.

In contrast, the LNP recognised that there was a problem with the cost of registering a family car, and we committed to and delivered a freeze on family car registration for the term we were in government. We also kept building roads. What is Labor saying today? 'If you vote for this disallowance motion we will have to cut back on roads.' That did not happen under us, so why should it happen if increases are limited to the rate of CPI? We have not even seen a roads infrastructure plan from this government, but already they are promising to blackmail people. Their promise is to blackmail people if we do not allow increases to car registration way above the inflation rate. It is not justified.

Where was the mention of this hike during the last election campaign? The Premier was silent with regard to this increase. This is a new increase way and above CPI and this government was secretive about that fact. The CPI rates are out. The official statistics are not a forward estimate but are current and should be what guides the actual registration increase. However, that is not what this government has done. You see, we are voting on a Labor regulation here today. This is going to be owned by the Labor government because it has the current CPI rates and it should be fully informed

as to what is a fair increase. But, no, it has chosen to revert to type—to go back to the way it was when it was last in government and not tell people about this outrageous hike ahead of the election and then when it got on the treasury benches gouge back those very real dollars from Queensland motorists.

As we have also heard, the cost of public transport under the Labor government went up outrageously and was due to go up 15 per cent per year under Labor. However, it was the LNP government that sought to cut those increases and to ensure that there was fairness. In fact, there was even an improvement in that there was a reduction in costs on a number of public transport routes. Our way of doing business is to try to be more efficient and effective in order to deliver more services but be up-front with people with respect to their hard-earned dollars. It is disappointing that Labor has reverted to type and I will vote against this outrageous hike way and above CPI that this Labor government is putting into this regulation. Members opposite in the Labor Party have the opportunity right here and right now in 2015 to make a choice about whether they are going to stand up for the motorists of Queensland or go above the CPI in this regard and put an unnecessary burden over and above what would be appreciated or in fact understood by the public.