




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

Record of Proceedings, 3 June 2015

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

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (8.07 pm): I rise to speak against the disallowance motion of part 15 of the Transport Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015. I am surprised that the opposition have moved to disallow part 15, which relates to the increase in registration fees. The reason that I am surprised is that the LNP's 2014-15 budget included a 3.5 per cent increase in registration fees in their forward estimates for 2015-16. This disallowance motion is hypocritical given that the opposition had themselves budgeted for a 3.5 per cent increase.

If the LNP disallowance is successful, then the current registration rates will remain in place. The 2012 rate would remain for passenger cars and light commercial vehicles registered for private purpose use across all vehicle categories and the 2014-15 rate would remain in place for all other vehicle categories. If this disallowance motion is passed, it will result in a shortfall in 2015-16 of \$51.8 million. If this freeze continues it will lead to a shortfall of \$580.3 million over four years. This shortfall could have a direct impact on my own electorate of Lytton, putting the \$90,000 contribution towards the construction of a cycleway on Wynnum Road from Lindum to Cameron Parade, which is scheduled to commence in July 2015, at risk.

Approaching the July 2015 budget, the Palaszczuk government has committed to stop the LNP cuts to government services. We are committed to investing in our transport infrastructure for regional jobs and safety. I remind members again that the LNP's own budget documents built in increases from 1 July 2015. Therefore, I question why the opposition would move to disallow something they themselves were committed to.

Queensland is not the most expensive state for registration fees. Compared to other states' current pricing structure, Queensland registration fees would still be the third cheapest in Australia for four-cylinder cars used for private purposes, and for six-cylinder or eight-cylinder cars used for private purposes, Queensland would remain the sixth cheapest registration in the country.

The Palaszczuk government will be introducing a new payment option for car, motorcycle, trailer and vessel registration. Previously customers only had the choice of paying every six months or every 12 months. We will introduce the option of a three-monthly payment. This scheme will be available for cars, motorcycles and trailers, giving motorists the option of an all-in-one direct debit package.

As part of the introduction of the new payment scheme, we are also reducing the surcharge for six-monthly registration fees from 1 July 2015. If motorists choose to pay their rego every six months they will save \$9.50 on their bill, with the surcharge dropping from \$34.70 annually to \$25.20. This means that the surcharge will drop from its current rate of \$17.35 to \$12.60 on a six-month direct debit, and the three-month direct debit surcharge will be \$6.30. These new payment plans offer families the option to manage their household budgets.

I am proud to be part of the Palaszczuk government—proud of our commitment to workers and families and proud to be part of a government that is about creating jobs and returning services to our communities. In just over three months the Palaszczuk government has introduced new laws restoring transparency to political donations, established landmark new measures to protect our Great Barrier Reef and reintroduced Skilling Queenslanders for Work, an initiative that creates thousands of jobs for Queenslanders.

This disallowance motion is mischievous and hypocritical and would leave a huge hole in the budget. Under the previous LNP government, the forward estimates reflected a 3.5 per cent increase in fees and charges—

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Miss Barton): Order! Members!

Ms PEASE: The previous government put a three-year freeze on registration fees for family vehicles. This was introduced on 1 July 2012 and applied to all passenger cars and light commercial vehicles registered for private, personal use. However, the previous government did not make any commitment during the 2015 election campaign to extend this freeze.

Mr Costigan interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Whitsunday, I am struggling to hear the member for Lytton. She deserves the opportunity to be heard. If you wish to make a contribution to the debate you can do so later.

Ms PEASE: The registration freeze will cease after 30 June 2015 following a decision of government to apply the indexation policy amount of 3.5 per cent. Under the previous LNP government, the forward estimates also reflected a 3.5 per cent increase in fees and charges post 30 June 2015.

We all know the LNP's record on cost-of-living expenses for Queenslanders. The Palaszczuk government, however, looks after vulnerable Queenslanders who are doing it tough. Under the previous LNP government, power bills went through the roof—a whopping \$440 increase on the average bill. Queensland's electricity prices went from well below the national average to well above it. This disallowance motion is hypocritical and, if passed, would create a shortfall that would have a huge impact on the budget.

On 1 July our government will introduce our new payment scheme. We have achieved in the first three months of government something the LNP could not achieve in three years. This new scheme offers families the opportunity to manage their budget and save, and it makes sense to roll registration into family budget planning with the added incentive of reducing surcharges. This is part of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to improving services to all Queenslanders.

The LNP's own budget documents show that they built in the increases from 1 July 2015. The rego freeze was only intended to be for three years and the LNP had no plan to continue it. I remind members again that this was supported by the previous government. They did not make a commitment during the 2015 election campaign to extend that freeze. They included the increase in their forward estimates. We all know the record of the LNP on cost-of-living expenses for Queenslanders. Importantly, we have introduced new payment schemes including the option for customers to pay every three months.

As I have said before, I am proud to be part of the Palaszczuk government, I am proud of our commitment to our workers and to families, I am proud to be the elected representative of Lytton, representing the good people of Wynnum, Manly, Lota and Hemmant, and I am proud to be part of a government that is about creating jobs and returning services to our communities. I urge the House to vote against the motion to disallow part 15 of the Transport Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015.