




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

Record of Proceedings, 3 June 2015

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

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (8.01 pm): The poor old Treasurer had to stretch that out to get to the end of the 10 minutes, didn't he? I have said it before and I will say it again: it is clear that this inexperienced government and this clumsy Treasurer are having a disastrous impact on Queensland. Tonight we are trying to save Queenslanders from the rapacious clutches of the member for Mulgrave and his budget blowout. He is the shining light of the insatiable big-spending Labor government, but the trouble is that he has to fund his voracious appetite for bloated bureaucracy and jobs for union mates. But for whom does the bell toll, Madam Deputy Speaker? It is the Queensland taxpayer, that's who.

Queensland's working families, already worried sick about job security and the prospect of an economic downturn thanks to the profligate spending of this Labor government, are now facing another hit to their budget bottom line. Every year he wants a Queensland family with a four-cylinder car to fork out \$290 to register it plus, of course, the compulsory third party and traffic improvement levy. We have every reason to expect that he will look at upping that as well. Was the avaricious Treasurer happy to settle for CPI? No. We have already heard the member for Indooroopilly incessantly going on about what the inflation rate was, and of course it is 2½ times the rate. The Treasurer could not tell us. He looks at the statistics about state final demand and tells us that we were in recession a couple of weeks ago; today the recession is supposedly gone thanks to his great work. He really is a miracle worker! If there were thousands in here, I am sure he could turn loaves and fishes into something for them.

We know that Labor cannot manage the state's finances. Let us have a quick recap on tax and charge increases under Labor. When the member for Inala was the transport minister, car rego went up by 30 per cent over four years; public transport fares increased 15 per cent not once, not twice, but every year under Labor. There is a document that my colleague the former treasurer has given me that the member for Mulgrave put on his own website some time ago and members will remember this: myth busters.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr LANGBROEK: It is an attack that I am happy to bring back again, because he bragged in this paper when he said—

Already we have:

- raised land tax and stamp duty at the top end
- increased taxes on casinos and introduced new liquor licensing fees ...
- increased coal royalties
- increased motor vehicle stamp duty and we have recently introduced a rise to car registration.

That is a direct quote from the member for Mulgrave during the 53rd Parliament when Labor were in power, so that is what Queenslanders can look forward to: not just increased rego, the subject of this disallowance motion, but they were proud of the fact that they raised taxes because for Labor it is all about spending other people's money.

Let us contrast that with the cost of living under the LNP. We committed to saving average Queensland families \$330 every year and, unlike those opposite, we put money back in their wallets. We froze the standard electricity tariff—excluding the cost of carbon—saving around \$120 for an average household. We froze car rego fees for more than 2.5 million family vehicles, something that the former minister for transport committed to in the 2012 campaign, and we delivered. We reinstated the principal place of residence concessional rate for stamp duty, providing savings of up to \$7,175 when buying a home. We delivered a rebate of \$80 per connection for households supplied by the SEQ bulk water grid. We halved public transport fare increases and rewarded regular commuters with free travel after nine journeys. Last year the former minister for transport, the member for Indooroopilly—who is here tonight and has moved this disallowance motion—cut fares for commuters and froze them at that level for 2015. That had never been done before. When the member for Buderim was the minister responsible, we gave \$150 vouchers to help children and young people join a sport or recreation club. We gazetted amended electricity prices after the carbon tax was abolished, with an average family saving about \$170 per year, and we provided an electricity rebate for pensioners and seniors. That is right, Madam Deputy Speaker: there was money coming into Queensland's households instead of haemorrhaging out to pay for Labor's profligacy.

Then we doubled the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme which had not changed since about 1989. I know that the members for Whitsunday and Gregory are here, and they were certainly appreciative of that. We did that in the 54th Parliament, and we did that so patients could get access to the best medical care no matter where they were.

Ms Leahy interjected.

Mr LANGBROEK: It was over 20 years, I say to the member for Gregory, since that had been increased and we doubled it. As I said yesterday, the clock is ticking. We have six weeks until the budget is handed down—six weeks for the Treasurer to show his hand on how is he going to drive down debt without raising taxes and charges. But we are going to give him a helping hand with this one: stop him before he gets a chance to slug Queenslanders for driving. Limit car registration increases to CPI because that is fair. We want the Treasurer to keep the cost of living down so that Queenslanders continue to enjoy living in this great state.