




Speech By  
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**MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Heavy Vehicle Charges**

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.45 pm): This morning the shadow transport minister and member for Indooroopilly made the prediction that Labor's big announcement today would mean one thing: higher tolls for trucks and heavy vehicles using the Logan and Gateway motorways. How did the member for Indooroopilly know? He knew because it is written in black and white in Labor's secret economic plan. Of course, that leaked plan, which not two weeks ago the Premier claimed was not government policy, proposed new tolls and charging for heavy vehicles. On 15 October, not two weeks ago, at page 2260 of *Hansard*, when asked by the opposition leader about tolls, the Premier said this is 'not government policy'. What do we see today? An announcement that will mean higher tolls for heavy vehicles using parts of the Queensland road network.

This announcement flies in the face of Labor's promises not to slug Queensland road users with higher taxes and it flies in the face of the Premier's assurances that the leaked economic plan from her own department is not government policy. It begs the question: what is next? What other parts of the economic action plan will this government be introducing in an attempt to shore up its weakening budget position? Could congestion charging be on the cards? Can parents expect to be slugged with co-payments just to send their children to public schools? Can we expect to see transport subsidies cut and regional train services stopped?

Toll increases under a Labor government should come as no surprise. They have never seen a tax they did not like to hike. Members might remember that in 2010 Andrew Fraser and Anna Bligh slugged motorists using the Gateway and Logan motorways with a 30 per cent fare increase in an attempt to fatten up the toll roads for privatisation. The current Premier and Treasurer were members of that government.

How quickly members opposite forget that it was their side of politics that sold assets without even taking it to the people of Queensland. How quickly they forget that Queenslanders were constantly treated like cash cows because the former government had no control of the budget. If members opposite need any further proof, I table an article from the *Courier-Mail*, written by Steven Wardill, titled 'Taking a toll—\$27m worth—Treasurer defends fee hikes as value for money'. That article was written five years ago. The names may change, but the actions stay the same.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 19 March 2010, titled 'Taking a toll—\$27m worth—Treasurer defends fee hikes as value for money' [[1508](#)].

Interestingly enough, that article by Steve Wardill included quotes from the then Transport Workers Union's Hughie Williams, who said that the increased costs for commercial operators would send more businesses broke. Today, Peter Biagini from the TWU said that there has been no consultation at all with the TWU, yet the government supposedly prides itself on listening and consultation. We are travelling around the state listening to Queenslanders. What we are hearing is that this government has no plan, it is not being upfront with the people of Queensland and it is holding Queensland back.