




Speech By
Lachlan Millar

MEMBER FOR GREGORY

Record of Proceedings, 3 June 2015

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

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (8.40 pm): I rise to support the disallowance motion. The increase in registration could not come at a worse time for people in my electorate, in particular people in the western part of my electorate who are now suffering under one of the worst droughts in living memory. Not only has the Labor Party increased registration; that increase is double CPI which I think is an absolute insult to the people, including local hardworking people, graziers and small business operators suffering under this drought. Any increase in the cost of what I call kitchen table bills is going to hurt mums and dads, pensioners, small business operators and, of course, graziers and farmers in my electorate who right now cannot afford the increase.

Vehicle registration costs for a four-cylinder vehicle will increase from \$280.05 to \$289.85. Add CTP and the traffic improvement fee and that is now \$677. For a family with a six-cylinder car the cost will increase by \$15.50 to \$458.95. Add the CTP and the traffic improvement fee and it is now \$846.10. For a person owning an eight-cylinder vehicle—and a lot of people in Western Queensland own eight-cylinder vehicles out of necessity—the cost will go up more than \$20 next financial year to \$642.70. Add the CTP and traffic improvement fee and it is now \$1,029.85. This is a lot of money to fork out from the household budget and it is hitting families in drought affected communities such as Longreach, Ilfracombe, Isisford, Aramac, Muttaborra, Blackall, Tambo, Barcaldine, Quilpie, Windorah, Jundah and Stonehenge, all local communities impacted by drought.

The registration fee hike comes on top of already expensive fuel prices that we have in Western Queensland. At a time when rural and regional Queensland families are under increasing cost-of-living pressures, the Labor government is treating them like a cash cow. This increase is also impacting people on the eastern side of my electorate. On the Central Highlands we have a major downturn in the resources mining industry. Towns like Emerald, Blackwater, Capella, Tieri and Clermont have been hit hard by job losses because of the mining downturn, and small businesses in those regions are doing it tough. The last thing we need right now is a hike in registration costs and especially an increase that is double CPI. That is another increase to household bills on the kitchen table, another hit to an already stretched household budget. That is another blow to small businesses and those local communities because that is more money to pay on registration instead of flowing through those local communities. One only has to go to towns like Blackwater or Emerald and talk to small business operators doing it tough and look at their financial spreadsheets that have seen a massive decline. The money that the Labor government is slugging local families will disappear from those local communities and be sucked up in increased registration costs. It is not a smart move when our communities in that region are doing it tough.

I call on the Labor government not to do this, not to slug these families in my electorate which have been hit hard by drought in the west and, of course, the resources downturn in the east. The Labor government has previously said it wants to lead a government of integrity and accountability. I call on those opposite to also lead a government of compassion. Why not step up tonight and say to families in my electorate, 'I don't believe car registration fees should go up at 2½ times the rate of CPI.'