




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Vehicle Registration

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply) (10.08 am): Much has been said in recent times about vehicle registration fees. The previous LNP government planned to end the three-year registration freeze and had no plans to continue it if re-elected. In fact, their own 2014-15 budget confirms exactly that. They included an increase in registration fees in their forward estimates not once but twice—in their budget and again in their midyear fiscal and economic review. It is hypocritical and mischievous for the LNP to suggest otherwise.

As members would be aware, a 3.5 per cent fee change will apply to registrations in Queensland in line with the government's indexation policy. It is important to note that from 1 July Queensland will remain the third cheapest state in Australia for medium four-cylinder family vehicles such as the Toyota Camry. We all know the LNP's record on cost-of-living expenses in Queensland. The Palaszczuk government looks after vulnerable Queenslanders who are doing it tough. That is why we have introduced new payment schemes, including the option to pay registration fees every three months. That has been achieved within the first three months of this government and is something that the previous government could not achieve in three years. The payment scheme will be available for cars, motorcycles and trailers, giving motorists the option of an all-in-one direct debit package.

This new scheme is one way of offering families options to manage their budgets and save. It makes sense to be able to roll registration into family budget planning without waiting for six- or 12-month notices. As part of the introduction of this new option, the Palaszczuk government is also reducing the surcharge for six-monthly registration fees from 1 July 2015. The introduction of those changes is part of our drive to continually improve the services we offer Queenslanders.