




Speech By
Patrick Weir

MEMBER FOR CONDAMINE

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

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (9.10 pm): I will be brief. I rise to support this disallowance motion. Cost of living is an issue for every family regardless of where you live, and one of the expenses that we as motor vehicle owners are all faced with is car and vehicle registration. The LNP when in government recognised that this was a major expense not only for families but also for businesses.

When the LNP came to government, Queensland had the most expensive registration fees in the country thanks to the former Labor government, under which there was an increase of 30 per cent over four years. To provide some relief, car registrations were frozen by the LNP for the term of its government. The transport minister at the time of the former Labor government is now the current Premier, so it is no surprise to see the attack on motorists' hip pockets has started again so early in the term of this government.

In an attempt to soften the blow, the government has introduced a policy that registration can be paid every three months. It would be nice to think that this policy was for the benefit of car owners, but call me a sceptic. It does seem a bit of a coincidence that soon after that announcement the price of registration is now set to rise. While I and members on this side of the House understand that car registration cannot be held to the same level indefinitely, I struggle to understand why this government is so keen for Queensland to regain the title of having the most expensive registration in the country.

I represent a regional seat and as such there are many families that own a large car or four-wheel drive to handle road conditions such as wet weather events and there is the constant worry of striking animals on the road. These vehicles are an essential and at times the only reliable mode of transport. Under the proposed fee increases, these car owners face the highest charges in the country for registration fees, excluding compulsory third party and the traffic improvement fee.

Rural Queenslanders are totally reliant on their own transport as there are few other options and they do not need this extra expense. The proposal is for a 3.5 per cent increase. The CPI is currently running at 1.4 per cent. If this is to be seen as nothing more than a cash grab then it would be impossible to justify any rise above the CPI.