




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Record of Proceedings, 24 May 2016

MOTION: VEHICLE REGISTRATION

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (6.02 pm): I move—

That this House directs the state government to ensure registration fees for the family motor vehicle do not increase by more than the consumer price index in the forthcoming financial year.

If we needed more proof that this Palaszczuk Labor government is asleep at the wheel, that it is captured by a handout mentality—be it from the federal Turnbull government or from the Queensland taxpayer—and that it misled Queenslanders in the lead-up to the last election in saying it could deliver key infrastructure without selling assets, without raising taxes and without cutting services, then this evening this registration rise of 3½ per cent is it. This is a government incapable of preventing Queensland families from being slugged by another 3½ per cent increase in their registration costs. Why should we be surprised though? The reality is that Labor governments have form when it comes to jacking up the cost of the family car registration year in, year out. If we look at the last four years under premier Anna Bligh, what did we see? We saw a 30 per cent increase in the registration cost of the family vehicle, which is why in the lead-up to the 2012 election the then Newman LNP opposition committed to freezing registration on the family vehicle for the length of our term, and once in government that is what we delivered. That was why at the end of our term in government—2014-15—the cost of registering a four-cylinder family vehicle sat at \$280.05, a six-cylinder family vehicle at \$443.45 and an eight-cylinder vehicle at \$620.95.

Queenslanders need to understand that the consumer price index, the CPI, currently sits for Brisbane at 1.7 per cent. Last year in the Palaszczuk Labor government budget and this year again in the lead-up to the second Palaszczuk Labor government budget, Queenslanders have been slugged with registration increases more than double CPI. What does that mean? For a four-cylinder vehicle it has gone from \$280 to \$300.10, a rise of more than \$20 in just two years; for a six-cylinder vehicle it has gone to \$475.05, which is a rise of \$30 over two years; and for an eight-cylinder vehicle it has gone to \$665.20, a rise of nearly \$45 over two years. Queenslanders are sick and tired of Annastacia Palaszczuk and the Labor Party treating motorists as cash cows. Under Labor Queensland became the most expensive state to own and operate a vehicle, and it is heading that way again under Premier Palaszczuk.

Before the Treasurer claims that he was captured by projections put in place by the former LNP government, let me put paid to that. It is correct that at the time the LNP government passed a regulation that would see fees rise by 3½ per cent, but that was when the CPI was around the three per cent mark. The LNP would never allow such a disparity to continue—never allow such a disparity to continue. We did not in 2012 and we will not now, and that is why we will cap registration on family vehicles to CPI and it is why we are calling on the Palaszczuk Labor government to do exactly the same. If the Treasurer needs help, it is simple: it is called an ECM, an Executive Council minute. Hang on: those opposite do know how to use those, because they had to use one of those to appoint Peter Beattie as the chair of

Goldoc! It is something that the Treasurer knows how to use and all it takes is for the Treasurer to direct his department to change that fee increase from 3½ per cent to 1.7 per cent. This government is asleep at the wheel, treating motorists as cash cows. The LNP will ease the cost-of-living pressure on Queenslanders. We are calling on the Palaszczuk Labor government to do the same.