



Speech By  
**Ann Leahy**


**MEMBER FOR WARREGO**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 June 2016

## **TRANSPORT (FEES) AMENDMENT REGULATION (NO. 1)**

### **Disallowance of Statutory Instrument**

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (7.53 pm): I rise to support the family car registration disallowance motion moved by the LNP opposition. Here we are again. We have another 3.5 per cent tax increase on family car registration. If you want to put it another way, we have a tax increase that is double the rate of inflation.

The LNP moved last year to stop this incompetent government's registration hike and now we are giving the members opposite a chance to give families a far go. Confidence is at a low due to the downturn in the resources industry and the effects and restrictions from the worst ever vegetation management legislation. Families on the land are doing their best to deal with the effects of drought and deficit and they are concerned about the ongoing job security in their communities. The last thing they need is a state government tax increase on an essential mode of transport, the family car.

These families do not need more pressure from a government initiated cost-of-living increase. They are trying to survive. Despite some welcome rain relief we should be conscious that about 80 per cent of the state is still drought declared. Not only are families doing it tough in my electorate, there are others who are doing it tough in about 80 per cent of the state.

The family car is an essential mode of transport in south-west Queensland as it is in Central Queensland and North Queensland. These people do not have public transport. They cannot walk down the road. They cannot catch a bus, a ferry or a train. It reminds me of a lady I met in Glenmorgan whose car had mechanical problems. She had no way of getting to her doctor other than driving her car because there are no public buses, no public ferries and no public trains. There are no alternatives.

For many rural and regional Queenslanders their only option is to use the family car to travel to and from work or to take the children to the doctor or the dentist, to pick up the groceries or take children to school or travel the very long distances that so many of them do to take their children to sporting activities. Mums and dads will be the ones who bear the brunt of this 3.5 per cent tax increase. It is an unfair price slug on an essential mode of transport for many families who will feel the pain of this broken Labor promise.

Mums and dads are being treated as cash cows by this state government. Those same mums and dads are trying to pay off the mortgage, pay the rent, educate their children, send their children away to boarding school. They get slugged with a registration tax from the Palaszczuk Labor government that is frozen at the wheel and has no plan to get the costs of living under control. Queenslanders, particularly in regional areas, already pay more for fuel and now they will be paying more for their family car registration. Queenslanders are back on that slippery slope of tax increases with this registration tax increase.

Let us not forget that under the last four years of the Bligh government registration increased by 30 per cent. It is only the LNP that has a track record of keeping costs low for Queensland families. That is why in 2012 the LNP froze registration on the family car when in office. The LNP did this after three years of huge increases under the Bligh Labor government.

The LNP opposition has committed to keeping registration increases to the CPI rate while the state Labor government has increased registration by 3.5 per cent in 2015 and again by 3.5 per cent in 2016. The LNP are standing up for families. We are standing up for rural and regional areas and those communities because the members opposite do not and will not; they do not know how to.