




Speech By  
**Hon. Curtis Pitt**

**MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE**

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Record of Proceedings, 24 May 2016

**MOTION: VEHICLE REGISTRATION**

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (6.07 pm): I rise to oppose the motion moved by the member for Glass House and the opposition. The former government not only planned to introduce the rego increase from 1 July; it factored it into its midyear fiscal and economic review released in December 2014.

**Mr Seeney:** That's not true.

**Mr PITT:** It is not true? I will table last year's midyear review. I table page 25 for the benefit of the member for Callide.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'LNP's Mid Year Review, page 25' [\[763\]](#).

Table 18 on that page very clearly shows revenue from registration increasing by 3.5 per cent plus a volume growth assumption of more cars on the road. Last year those opposite tried to rewrite history by claiming that the LNP was planning to continue with a freeze on rego. Wrong! Now those opposite are claiming that they want to link it to the consumer price index. They cannot make up their minds. They have had as many positions on this as they have had leaders in the last three years!

Let us be clear: the rego freeze was only intended to be for three years. The LNP had no plans to continue it. The budget documents say so. Neither side of politics went to the election promising a freeze on registration prices in Queensland. It is absolutely mischievous and ultimately hypocritical for the LNP to suggest otherwise. During this term we have introduced new payment schemes, including the option to pay every three months. This new payment scheme is one way that we are offering families options to manage their household budgets. We all know the record of the LNP on cost-of-living expenses in Queensland: power bills went through the roof—a whopping \$440 increase on the average bill when they promised they were going to save Queenslanders \$120 a year. Have mercy! Queensland's electricity prices went from well below the national average to well above it.

Under the member for Clayfield, we saw unemployment go through the roof. The LNP has no budgetary plans other than selling assets. It now has 'Mr Strong Choices' back in charge and he wants to get back on this side of the House and in charge of the books. We all know his go-to strategy of selling everything.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr PITT:** He wants to get everything off the books. That is his strategy. Those opposite continue to tell the media that they need to get asset sales up in the future but, as was reported in the *Australian* earlier this month, all they need is a 'succinct and clearer campaign'. We know that the Leader of the Opposition wants to sell 49 per cent of Powerlink. He has been backgrounding journalists on that too.

It is time for the Leader of the Opposition to come clean and tell Queenslanders of his plans in terms of selling assets. Today we saw a remarkable reveal. Prior to the leadership spill, the member for Clayfield told the media that asset sales would not be back on the agenda if he became leader. On 6 May the member for Clayfield told the media—

... the people of Queensland have spoken.

I have accepted that resolution.

Yet today, when pressed on asset sales, the member for Clayfield told the media, 'We'll be making our position known in due course.' Why did he not just say what he said on 6 May? It is a modern-day LNP equivalent of 'Don't you worry about that.'

I say to the Leader of the Opposition that there is no time like the present to come clean. Would the member for Everton's backers have voted against Lawrence Springborg if they had known of the turncoat politics that the member for Clayfield was about to play? The time for the Leader of the Opposition to come clean with Queenslanders is now, not 'in due course'.

We oppose this motion. I reiterate that, in the recent federal budget, Scott Morrison did not talk about Queensland. Of course, after that, during the federal election campaign we have seen this exercise of potentially pork-barrelling. Maybe those opposite taught the federal coalition the way to do it? I do not know. Those opposite are making—

**Mr Emerson** interjected.

**Mr PITT:** The member for Indooroopilly should listen. He might learn something. We know that he still has his training wheels on. The LNP is making a mockery of the preparation of budget papers. They are making a mockery—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr PITT:** They should pay attention. The members opposite are making a mockery of the presentation of the Midyear Fiscal and Economic Review documents, which show clearly, as I tabled, that that increase was built into their forward estimates. That was not done by accident. You do not suddenly stumble into a room and say, 'Oops, a 3½ per cent indexation policy. Where did that come from?' That does not happen. That was a deliberate act. The members opposite knew very well that they were not promising that at the last election campaign. Of course, now they are trying to rewrite history.

That is typical of those opposite, particularly the member for Clayfield, who campaigned against asset sales in the 2012 election. Then they spent three years telling people that they had to sell assets. Then they say, 'We don't need to do that. The people have spoken. We accept the resolution.' Today, we have heard it again. The member for Clayfield is not coming clean. Now it is, 'We will give our position on asset sales in due course.' That is the modus operandi of those opposite. That is what they do. Shamefully, they come in here and try to pull the wool over Queenslanders' eyes yet again. Queenslanders are not having any of it.