



Speech By  
**Julieanne Gilbert**


**MEMBER FOR MACKAY**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 June 2016

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

**Disallowance of Statutory Instrument**

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (8.37 pm): I rise to speak in opposition to the disallowance motion moved by the member for Glass House. I am surprised that the opposition are revisiting the motion they put up last year, as it only exposes once again that they had no intention of keeping a freeze on vehicle registration. The opposition are grandstanding: the bottom line is that the previous LNP government planned to end the freeze. The LNP's own 2014-15 budget confirms it had a 3.5 per cent increase in registration fees. As they pointed out last year, the increase was included in the LNP's forward estimates—not once, but twice. It is the height of hypocrisy for members of the opposition to stand in the House again tonight to condemn a registration increase that they in fact had planned in their own budget.

The Newman government planned to sell off vital assets and increase registration. They need to stop pretending to the voters of Queensland. The Labor government is up-front with the public of Queensland about increases. Without the increases the state would lose over \$53 million in the 2016-17 budget and more than \$563 million over the forward estimates. Even with the increases to registration fees this year; Queensland families will still have relatively low registration fees for most popular selling cars, including their compulsory third-party insurance premiums, compared to other states in Australia. The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring that households are able to manage their cost-of-living pressures. Queenslanders have the option of using the payment plans introduced by this government, including the option to pay registration fees every three months. Last year, with the introduction of the new payment plan, the surcharge for six-monthly payments was reduced. I know that families in my electorate have taken up this option for cars, motorcycles and trailers.

Being able to continue to build and improve our roads in North Queensland is important to reduce serious accidents and improve our ability to grow our region's industries with a reliable supply chain network. The Palaszczuk government's budget 2016 injects much needed funds into the northern road structures. In my electorate of Mackay and in the electorate of Mirani, much needed funds have been allocated: \$31.9 million this financial year to realign the Peak Downs Highway at the Eton Range; \$26.2 million to continue replacing timber bridges between Mackay and Nebo; and \$5.3 million this financial year to contribute to the replacement of the two Vines Creek bridges. To the north of Mackay, in the Whitsunday electorate, the Mackay-Habana Road at the Glenella-Richmond Road intersection has been allocated \$1.8 million for improvements.

The road improvements do not stop there. In the Burdekin electorate, the Sandy Gully bridge upgrade between Bowen and Ayr has been allocated \$5.7 million. Also, the widening of the Bruce Highway between the Billabong Sanctuary and the Sunbird Motel is allocated \$762,000. These road projects are necessary to continue the growth of the north.

The member for Hinchinbrook has announced his support for the Palaszczuk government's road programs. He has said—

I welcome the continuation of a busy program of capital works on the Bruce Highway in the Hinchinbrook electorate, as ... several new projects secure state budget allocations for the first time.

After a long campaign to secure funding from the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments, I am delighted to confirm that \$8.7 million has been allocated to upgrade and reconfigure the intersections of Bowden Road and Church Road with the Bruce Highway.

He also said—

I also welcome \$12.4 million to widen sections of the Bruce Highway between Ingham and Innisfail, while the replacement of the Arnot Creek Bridge north of Ingham (\$10 million) and new overtaking lanes south of Ingham (\$9.6 million) are in the budget for the first time.

Given the member for Hinchinbrook's pleasure with the road projects announced in his electorate, I hope those opposite will not put them in jeopardy by supporting the motion.

As I said, the freeze on registration for the next four years would lead to a loss of revenue of \$563 million. That is more than half a billion dollars. Members opposite would put at risk road projects so that we could make up this massive shortfall. That spells bad news not only for projects in the electorates of Mirani and Mackay but also for projects in my electorate such as the Vines Creek bridges replacement. The planning for and building of the Mackay Ring Road, servicing the electorates of Mirani, Mackay and Whitsunday, will also be in jeopardy. It is a \$565 million investment that will deliver 600 jobs. I do not want to see these projects end up on the scrap heap because of those opposite. Stage 1 of the Mackay Ring Road includes an 11-kilometre, two-lane highway bypass which means motorists will avoid 10 sets of traffic lights from Stockroute Road to Bald Hill Road. There will also be 14 new bridges, local road overpasses and major water crossings over the Pioneer River and Fursden Creek flood plain. Planned projects for the north are vital for our prosperity and safety. I urge all members to support the north by rejecting this motion.