




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

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MOTION: VEHICLE REGISTRATION

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (6.28 pm): What we are seeing here today is a desperate attempt by an opposition to re-establish any credibility at all when it comes to the cost of living. But the facts betray them; we know what their record is: 43 per cent electricity price increases and the highest level of unemployment in 11 years under Tim Nicholls as Treasurer. We are seeing a desperate attempt by the opposition to re-establish credibility despite the facts.

Let us look at the facts. Those opposite wax lyrical and rail against the indexation decision in this budget, but where did it come from? It was in their last budget! Not only was it in their last budget, it was in their last midyear economic review as well. There are two different documents from the last six months of the Newman government that outline their policy of a 3.5 per cent increase over the forward estimates. It is in black and white. Let me quote from the Mid Year Fiscal and Economic Review 2014 under Tim Nicholls as treasurer, page 25: motor vehicle registration for 2015-16 up to \$1.65 billion; up to \$1.72 billion the year after; and in 2017-18 up to \$1.8 billion. That is the policy of the previous LNP government in black and white. I table that document.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled '6. Taxation and royalty revenue and assumptions' [764].

In their last budget document, at page 57, they said the same thing. For 2014-15 under 'vehicle registration' we see \$542 million, \$570 million and \$598 million. There it is in black and white. I also table that document.

Tabled paper: Extract from State Budget 2014-15: Budget Strategy and Outlook—Budget Paper No. 2, page 57 [765].

The truth is revealed in their own budget document on page 61, where they allege that there would be no increase in registration fees for private vehicles during 'this term of government', that is, the Newman government. The truth is that this is a policy established by the Newman government. It is a policy we have decided not to adjust. It is an LNP policy. They can try to squirm away from it all they want, but it started with them. That is the truth.

Their problem is that in the community they have no credibility whatsoever on cost-of-living issues. People remember Queensland having the highest level of unemployment in 11 years under Tim Nicholls. The LNP ignores the fact that under their government compulsory third party car insurance went up 80 per cent. It went from five per cent to nine per cent. They do not mention that about their record. It is probably another reason why they are in opposition.

If only they had concentrated on spending money on roads, rather than privatisation and contestability, we would all be better off in Queensland. The member for Indooroopilly had a secret branch for contestability and privatisation in Transport and Main Roads. He spent \$30 million, which is documented, that could have been spent on Queensland's roads. He appointed Michael Calabiano as the director-general of Transport and Main Roads. The opposition are going to have to come up with some policy, rather than four-word phrases. If they think four-word phrases will get them across the line, they will be on the opposition side for a long time.

Let us look at the annual costs of motoring. The opposition's allegation that we are the most expensive state is simply not factual when one looks at the compulsory charges for motorists in Queensland versus other states. When registering a Nissan Micra and taking all the costs together, three other states are more expensive than Queensland; for a Mazda 2, three other states are more expensive than Queensland; for a Toyota Corolla, four other states are more expensive than Queensland; for a Holden Commodore, New South Wales is considerably more expensive than Queensland; and it is the same for four-wheel drives. When we look at the annual compulsory costs of motoring, the opposition's position does not stack up whatsoever.

The opposition wants more spending on infrastructure, but they do not want to pay for it. They want to blow a black hole in our budget. On last year's estimation—and the figures would be slightly different but comparable this year—there would have been a \$51 million black hole this financial year and \$580 million, or thereabouts, over the forward estimates. They have no credibility at all in terms of making the figures add up.