



Speech By  
**Shane King**


**MEMBER FOR KALLANGUR**

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

### **Disallowance of Statutory Instrument**

 **Mr KING** (Kallangur—ALP) (7.48 pm): I rise to oppose the motion moved by the member for Glass House. It has been a year since the last time the opposition tried this. They are stuck in the past, trying the same tricks and spreading the same myths. It is groundhog day in the Queensland parliament, due to the LNP opposition. The fact is that, when in government, the members opposite had no intention of continuing the pause on registration. How do we know that? Because it was in their own budget papers. The final budget of the member for Clayfield clearly showed not only that they had committed to removing the freeze but also that they had built in increases from 1 January 2015. Not only that, the then treasurer reiterated it in his midyear review, which was released just weeks before the election. Let us hear no more the myth that members opposite had any different plans.

To come in here now and move this motion shows just how desperate members opposite are to wreck the Palaszczuk government's positive agenda. If successful this motion would leave a hole in the budget that the LNP needs to come clean on how they would fill. Not increasing registration fees would cost the state over \$53 million in 2016-17 and more than \$563 million over the forward estimates.

Tying it to CPI would also be fiscally irresponsible—assuming a steady rate of 1.7 per cent would cost the state over \$26.5 million in 2016-17 and more than \$288 million over the forward estimates. The LNP needs to come clean on how they plan to fill those holes. Is it a return to asset sales? With the new Leader of the Opposition, who wasted \$70 million on his failed Strong Choices plan, I think that could be on the cards. Will it be slashing roads funding? In which case they need to outline each and every road project they would scrap if this disallowance motion were to proceed. The fact is, reducing the annual indexation of the registration and other fees is to reduce the amount of funding available to TMR for investment under the Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program.

The forward program of work in the Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program is based on expected funding over four years, including revenue from motor vehicle registrations increasing every year by the government indexation policy amount. QTRIP provides confidence to industry and other major stakeholders about forward infrastructure projects and is a major job generator.

For 2016-17 to 2019-20 QTRIP has no discretionary funding component. Funding across the forward estimates has been fully allocated to projects and/or programs. Reducing QTRIP funding by this amount will require cuts to the Queensland government commitment to upgrade, maintain and keep safe the state's transport network.

Even with the increase in registration fees this year, Queensland families still have relatively low registration fees for the most popular selling cars, including compulsory third party insurance premiums. For the most popular selling medium sized four-cylinder car, such as a Toyota Corolla, Queensland is the second cheapest state in the country. For a dual-cab four-cylinder utility, like the Toyota Hilux—the unbreakable Toyota Hilux—Queensland is the third cheapest state in the country.

The Palaszczuk government is aware of the cost-of-living pressures Queenslanders are facing. In the last 12 months the government introduced a new payment option that enables customers to make regular direct debits toward their vehicle registration renewal and provides a convenient set-and-forget direct debit payment option. Customers can take up three-month registration pay terms that allow customers to make smaller and more manageable payments. The scheme also assists families struggling with the cost of living to meet the cost of their next registration by these instalment payments rather than six- or 12-month payments. Another payment option is also available to customers. It is called the planned payment scheme, PPS, and is available through Australia Post.

It is a bit rich for members opposite to paint themselves as the champion of battlers after the excesses of the Newman-Nicholls budgets. I challenge them to come clean on just how they plan to plug the budget black hole they are threatening all of Queensland with with this motion tonight.

In summary, the LNP's registration freeze was only ever intended to be for three years. They made no election commitment to continue the freeze. In fact, their 2014-15 forward estimates showed a 3½ per cent increase in fees. We all know the record of the LNP on cost-of-living expenses. It is a joke they are expressing concerns after their efforts when in government. I oppose the motion.