




Speech By
Robbie Katter

MEMBER FOR MOUNT ISA

Record of Proceedings, 25 May 2017

MOTION: VEHICLE REGISTRATION

 **Mr KATTER** (Mount Isa—KAP) (6.01 pm): I rise to make a contribution to this debate as roads and road funding is absolutely critical to North Queensland seats and Western Queensland areas—these remote areas of Queensland. We know how much it hurts when funding is cut. When TIDS funding was cut from \$70 million down to \$40 million then \$30 million in the last parliament, that hurt a lot. Coupled with that, there was not much coming through in that time in my electorate. When road funding is low, we know what that can do to an electorate, as my colleague from Dalrymple knows.

We fought hard to get the western roads package in this parliament. The government delivered that western roads package that went right through the western areas, down through the seat of Warrego into Dalrymple, Gregory and Mount Isa. That was a \$60 million road package that was very well received, and we were very grateful to have that money because it was a lifeline to a lot of those councils. After three years of having very low funds, we were very happy to get good road funding in my electorate in that lifeline that was thrown to those councils.

When we talk about registration increases or road funding, sometimes it does not mean as much to us because why would we care if road funding increases or if registration increases if we do not get our share in the north? What is the point? We will continue to have a lack of representation in the House, and those areas always seem to end up being neglected. The important point for us then is not so much the amount of funding there is but where that funding goes. That is the point for the crossbenchers. Therefore, we propose an amendment to the motion tonight, so I move—

After the word “budget” insert the following wording:

“or quarantines a portion of vehicle registration revenue, equal to the shortfall, for North Queensland roads specifically the Flinders Highway, Ray Jones Drive, Millaa Millaa to Malanda Road, and Almaden to Chillagoe Road.

This recognises the fact that there have been many years of government funding neglect where we are constantly trying to catch up. It is a signal to the parliament that we miss out on these increases but when we get the chance, if there is going to be an increase from a shortfall, it should come to the north. That is the position of the crossbench here tonight—any source of funding should come through to us. I support our amendment.