




Speech By
Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 13 June 2017

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Forte, Mr B; Cost of Living

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.16 am): At the outset let me say that I join with the Premier and others in expressing our condolences in relation to the tragic loss of Senior Constable Brett Forte. I will deal with that matter further in my matters of public interest statement after question time when I have a further opportunity.

Instead of reining in the cost of living for everyday Queenslanders, this Labor government continues to punish them. That is what happens when you lack the experience and competence to responsibly manage the state's finances. Reprehensibly, this Labor government makes Queensland families and businesses pick up their bills through higher fees, taxes and charges. In the government's last budget we saw rip-offs, writedowns and raids, and we all know how far that got us. In the last 12 months 30,000 Queenslanders lost their jobs. Make no mistake: this will be another hollow budget in the tradition of the past failings of Labor that will not deliver the jobs that Queenslanders need. This morning we have heard all sorts of big promises, but we have heard them all before and they have not delivered. The reality is that the infrastructure we need is not being built, business confidence is in the gutter and business bankruptcies are sky high. That is Labor's record. After 2½ years of failing Queenslanders, why would anyone believe them now?

Here is what the evidence says: this Labor government treats Queenslanders like cash cows. Queenslanders are being slugged with higher taxes and charges because the Premier and her Treasurer cannot manage the budget. For two years in a row Labor has increased car registration costs by double the rate of inflation. Under this Labor government car registration costs have jumped \$50, taxes are up by another \$53 per person and Labor broke its election commitment not to introduce or increase any taxes. In the 2016-17 budget Labor brought in a foreign buyers' surcharge on property, and this new tax came a year after the Treasurer categorically ruled it out. The LNP froze family car registration for our entire term in government.

If today's reports are true, this Labor government has now been forced into adopting the LNP's policy to cap increases in family car registration at the inflation rate. Even then, it is still after another 3½ per cent slug this year. Under this Labor government we are seeing car registration go up, we are seeing electricity prices soar, and now they tell us water prices are going up as well.

(Time expired)