




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 7 March 2018

MOTION: FUEL PRICE MONITORING

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (5.58 pm): I move—

That this House calls on the Palaszczuk government to adopt the LNP's plan for real-time fuel price monitoring so that third-party fuel applications can fully inform motorists and to drive competition and lower fuel prices.

Queensland families from Cairns to Coolangatta are struggling financially. From up further in the cape to all the way out to the west, everyone in Queensland is struggling. Their wages and salaries are stagnating, but their household bills simply are not.

Their bills are going up and up and up year in, year out, and one of the biggest costs to Queenslanders is running the family car. We all know that car registration has rocketed under this tax addicted government. However, drivers are not being stung by their own government; they are being stung by petrol retailers too. Queensland has some of the highest fuel prices in Australia. Queensland motorists are being taken for a ride every single time they go to the fuel station. Queenslanders everywhere have had enough of being ripped off just because they want to drive their car.

I have to ask: does anyone on the other side of the House—and their one little seat on our side; I am not sure what she did wrong to get that seat—particularly the ministers because they get driven around in their cars, have any idea at all what it would cost to fill up a car?

An opposition member: Out of touch.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection because after three years of this Labor government they are out of touch. They would have no idea how much it would cost to fill up a car. Today it costs around \$80, depending on the size of the tank of course—not for Lachy Millar, who would be filling up his—

Mr Powell: 160 bucks!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It costs \$160 for this member here. It has been even higher. Recently it has cost \$80 for a standard tank but it has been up as high as \$90 in other weeks. An amount of \$80 or \$90 might not mean much to those opposite, particularly the ministers, but it is a huge hit on millions of Queensland households. A car is not a luxury for so many Queenslanders; it is an essential item. It is a necessity in many regional areas in particular. However, I should point out that, under this great fuel rip-off that is happening at the moment, for the first time in a generation fuel is cheaper in some of the more regional areas than it is in Brisbane. It is an interesting anomaly.

It is the LNP that wants to help these struggling people—the struggling families—so we looked for a solution. The member for Maryborough may like to laugh about the struggling families in his electorate—those opposite may like to laugh—but the LNP will not laugh. We on this side of the House do not laugh about struggling families who cannot afford to fill up their car or who cannot afford to take their children to school because of this incompetent Labor government which has been given a solution. This is their opportunity today. How about they take the LNP's solution that we have kindly offered? The homework has been done. We did not have to look far. I get that Labor do not do economics really well and they really do not understand.

In New South Wales the competition caused by real-time fuel price monitoring has knocked about \$6 off the price of a tank of fuel. Now there is flip-flopping all over the place from those opposite. We have the transport minister who said it will do nothing to bring down petrol prices and then we have the Premier who has refused to adopt our policies. Then, five days later, flip-flopping again, she goes back into the media to state her position, 'I'm not going to say either way.' She has no comprehension of this. This is the opportunity for the Premier to come into this chamber tonight and say, 'Thank you, LNP. We understand that you have offered us the solution and we will do something about struggling families in Queensland.'

(Time expired)