




Speech By
Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGEES

Record of Proceedings, 7 March 2018

MOTION: FUEL PRICE MONITORING

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (6.24 pm): I rise to speak in support of the amended motion moved by the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. There is no doubt that fluctuating and rising petrol prices are placing significant pressure on Queensland households. It is arguably one of the greatest cost-of-living pressures that concern and often confuse motorists across the country. It is a conversation that has been taking place at the national level intensively for the past 20 years. There is no doubt that consumers should be empowered by widely available price data from websites and apps when and where they need it to make the best and cheapest choice for them and their families, and they can.

In recent years, there has been a move towards fuel price transparency not just here but also overseas, including in Germany and Chile. The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission website and quarterly reports have long provided information on when to buy, but apps such as Petrol Spy, MotorMouth and GasBuddy are providing the critical missing piece of where to buy, providing station-by-location information to consumers.

Queenslanders need certainty about what is happening with fuel prices. Queenslanders are sick of being gouged at the bowser. They want to be listened to and they want relief. We know that people are hurting in the hip pocket, so not only have we listened but have acted. We have taken action to ensure that Queensland motorists will not pay more than the fuel prices they see, ending confusing conditional prices on service station price boards. We introduced the biofuel mandate, giving assurance to producers and creating a positive environment for new investment. We have worked cooperatively with industry and across portfolios to identify solutions to tackle this issue for Queenslanders. But the state government has its limits. Queensland cannot do it alone because, of course, this is more than a state issue; it is a national issue. Petrol prices are not an isolated issue here in Queensland. They are an issue nationally, and a national approach is needed.

I return to where I started. Queenslanders want certainty. Everyone in this parliament can work together to give Queenslanders that greater certainty. All it requires is the will to stand up and together call on the Turnbull federal government to take real action and adopt a nationally consistent approach to address the issue of price gouging in the fuel retail market because, let us get real, we know that the current system is not delivering for Queenslanders. Every cent of excess fuel excise taken out of our state is money that is not going to support Queensland jobs, Queensland services and Queensland infrastructure. We know what the consequences are: it is less money for the things that matter.

What does this Canberra tax grab look like in the real world? What does it look like in my community? Every cent of fuel excise taken out of our state looks like less money for Queensland roads like Sandgate Road or the Gateway Motorway in my electorate. It looks like less money for Queensland schools like Earnshaw State School or Boondall State School in my electorate. Every cent of fuel excise taken out of Queensland looks like less money for Queensland hospitals, and that is on top of the billion

dollars the health minister has spoken about. It is another example of abdicating responsibility to Queenslanders now and Queenslanders in the future. It is fast becoming the Turnbull government's modus operandi.

Queenslanders want and need action on fuel prices and this parliament can work together to apply pressure to see that action taken, because without fuel the nation stops and the same could be said of leadership. We on this side of the House know that people are hurting in the hip pocket, and not only have we listened but also we have acted, as I outlined earlier. We always will act on behalf of the best interests of Queenslanders regardless of the issue. I now ask my colleagues opposite: will you finally stand up for Queenslanders? Will you stand side by side with us?

Mr SPEAKER: I ask the member for Nudgee to direct your comments through the chair.

Ms LINARD: Will the opposition stand with us and call on their federal counterparts to act on behalf of Queenslanders too, to take real action and adopt a nationally consistent approach to address the issue of price gouging in the fuel market?

We have seen the federal government tear itself apart of late. It is incumbent on the state branches of the coalition to step into the void to project some leadership into the Turnbull-Joyce-McCormack void. We on this side of the chamber have made our position clear. We will always do everything in our power to act on behalf of Queenslanders, particularly when they are hurting. Queenslanders need certainty about what is happening with fuel prices.

Queenslanders are sick of being gouged at the bowser. They want to be listened to and they want relief, so I will support the amended motion because it makes sense for Queenslanders who are sick of being price gouged at the bowser. I will support the amended motion because it makes fuel pricing more transparent and more accountable and I urge everyone else to support the amended motion to stand up for Queensland consumers and to stand up for their constituents.