




Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Bailey**

**MEMBER FOR MILLER**

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Record of Proceedings, 7 March 2018

**MOTION: FUEL PRICE MONITORING**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (6.45 pm): The member for Chatsworth was next on the speaking list, but if he wants me to speak, I will speak. I am very happy to do that. I am very happy to speak in support of the amendment, which is a sensible amendment that has been moved by the member for Stafford, a fellow minister.

When it comes to petrol prices in Queensland, the record shows that, over the past three years, the Palaszczuk government has taken real action. It is a bit rich to be lectured by the LNP members on fuel prices after they sat on their hands for three years. They did absolutely nothing. They refused to take action. That is why they have lost two elections in a row. Their interest in this issue is very much a new thing. In fact, their interest is contrary to comments made previously by the member for Chatsworth. On 8 August, he rubbished national efforts to introduce an increased level of transparency into fuel prices. This is a little backflip by the member for Chatsworth, which is very convenient.

In March 2016, I convened a petrol price summit in Brisbane, which brought together key stakeholders, including industry representatives, consumers and motoring groups. Additionally, I invited the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission to the round table as well as asking the commission to conduct an in-depth review of petrol prices in Brisbane and North Queensland. The ACCC agreed and went on to conduct investigations into both of those locations—something that the LNP failed to do in the three years that it was in government. Did the LNP lobby the Abbott government at any stage? No, it did not. It did not do anything in that regard either.

On 20 May 2017, the Cairns report was released and found that the Cairns market lacks vigorous and effective competitors, with weak competition seeing higher prices for motorists. On 9 October 2017, the Brisbane report was released and found that a lack of competition is causing Brisbane motorists to pay more than motorists in other capital cities. A key reason that Brisbane prices are higher than other capital cities is the lack of independent chains. Mr Speaker, on 27 June 2017, in your role as treasurer, I co-wrote with you a letter to the federal Treasurer asking for the federal government to investigate national real-time fuel disclosures, but the federal government did not take that up. Did we hear the LNP members opposite stand up to Canberra on that issue? No, we did not. They will back up Canberra, but they will not back Queensland. We can count on that.

Another key stakeholder that played an important role at the summit and in the public debate that has occurred since then is the RACQ. Since 2012, the RACQ has been calling for the regulatory reform of fuel price boards. The Palaszczuk government listened to the RACQ and the fuel industry at the petrol price summit. Between February and May 2016 the government undertook three months of public and industry consultation to get the balance right between protecting consumers and avoiding high regulatory costs that would unintentionally push up petrol prices.

After listening to all the stakeholders, our regulatory reforms took a similar approach to laws in South Australia and Victoria. Our Fair Trading (Fuel Price Board) Regulation 2017 was formulated in September last year and commenced on 31 January this year in order to give every motorist accurate

information on the fuel boards at service stations. That is a very important reform. Again, it was something that was ignored by the LNP members, who talk big but, when they are in government, they are meek.

Under the E10 OK campaign, we brought in the biofuels mandate to make sure that there were more Queensland jobs, more Queensland manufacturing and that E10, which retails at a lower price, is available at many more outlets. That campaign has been very successful.

That has been very successful. There has been a 60 per cent increase. Let us be very clear what this motion is about. This motion is about the Leader of the Opposition trying to build her profile to stave off the inevitable challenge to her leadership by that well-known shark, the member for Broadwater. He is out there networking. We know the challenge is on. They have gagged the member for Broadwater. He is not allowed to ask a question during question time. He is not allowed to get on the speaking list. They are hiding him in a cupboard because they know the hunt is on. The temporary team know that the challenge will be on. This is a desperate attempt by an opposition leader to build her profile because she knows the Broadwater shark will get her in the end.