




Speech By  
**Ros Bates**

**MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA**

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Record of Proceedings, 7 March 2018

### **TOW TRUCK AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (5.30 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Tow Truck and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. This bill seeks to make amendments to the Tow Truck Act 1973 and the Tow Truck Regulation 2009 to make changes in relation to the removal of vehicles from private property. These aspects of the tow truck industry were previously unregulated. This bill is just the latest example of Labor handing in the LNP's homework and trying to take the credit.

We know that many of the changes introduced in this bill were actually included in a private member's bill introduced by the member for Glass House in the 55th Parliament. Now we have Labor trying to introduce many of the same amendments in their own bill. Then they are trying to make the grandiose claim that they were the ones who responded to the community's concerns. Despite Labor finally showing up to the party, the record shows that it is the LNP who first acted on this issue. It was the LNP who introduced the private member's bill last year. Our action was in response to a documented increase in consumer complaints about the unsavoury practices by some elements within the towing industry which have occurred under Labor's watch.

Under Labor we know that there were many recorded instances of vehicles being removed from private properties only to be towed inordinate distances or owners being charged outrageous sums to get their cars back. Those opposite sat idly by for their entire first term as consumers continued to be harassed and ripped off because rogue elements in this industry were not being properly regulated. After Labor let this slide for far too long, the LNP acted to finally regulate these practices in the tow truck industry. Now we see those opposite coming in here crossing out 'LNP' from our policy, writing 'Labor' in red pen and trying to pass off the initiatives as their own.

We on this side of the House will never stand for Queensland consumers being bullied or exploited by rogue elements of any industry. It is pleasing to see, three years after taking office, those opposite finally have their act together with this bill. It is very timely that we are in here today debating changes to the Tow Truck Act because in less than a month Gold Coasters will be stuck in traffic on the M1 during the Commonwealth Games after Labor's failure to plan.

We all know that there are going to be tow trucks lined up on exit 77 and exit 79 in my electorate just waiting for the consequences of Labor's failure to do anything. Those opposite have had three years to put in place a strategy to combat the congestion on the M1, but they have sat back, twiddled their thumbs and hoped for the best. Now it is residents of my electorate who will be forced to suffer as they battle congestion every time they use the M1. For weeks I have been receiving a number of phone calls from my constituents who are dreading the traffic that they are going to have to suffer through. What was Labor's purported solution to the huge amount of traffic the M1 will see during the games? It was to lower the speed limit by 10 kilometres an hour on the northern Gold Coast.

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. As much as the member for Mudgeeraba would like to cover her inaction for three years on the M1, it is not relevant to this bill. I ask for her to come back to the topic before the chamber.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Member for Mudgeeraba, I request that you remain within the long title of the bill, please.

**Ms BATES:** I am referring to the long title of the bill, which is the Tow Truck and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I am talking about all the tow trucks that are going to be lined up on the M1 over the next three weeks, as they already do, by the way, Mr Deputy Speaker. It is well known that at exits 77 and 79 during peak hours on the M1 there are numerous tow trucks all lined up ready to take on all of the accidents that are going to occur on the M1. I personally have seen on the Gooding Drive roundabout some seven to nine tow trucks all lined up just waiting to pick up all of the accidents.

Whilst the minister bit, which he always will do, the facts about the upgrade of the M1 are that the M1 was upgraded by the LNP from exit 77 to exit 79 in 2013. In fact, I have a media release here from me and Karen Andrews, the federal member for McPherson, who did the sod turning on 11 March 2013.

**An opposition member:** They are still parking seven to nine tow trucks there.

**Ms BATES:** Thank you very much. I table that media release.

*Tabled paper:* Media release, dated 11 March 2013, by the member for Mudgeeraba, Ms Ros Bates MP, titled 'M1 Déjà vu as first sod turned on widening' [277](#).

The Minister for Main Roads said this was an example of Labor 'pulling out all the stops' to make sure the games go 'as smooth as possible'. Mr Deputy Speaker, I was on the M1 last Friday for 4½ hours. There was an accident on the M1—

**Mr Minnikin:** How did the tow truck get there?

**Ms BATES:** A tow truck could not even get there. In fact, nobody could get to the accident. It was in the Gaven electorate. A car hit a truck and caused a traffic jam for hours and hours on the M1. On the way back we were introduced to the new 100 kilometres an hour limit on the Gold Coast, and I sat at Smith Street—

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The bill does not cover in any way the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games transport plan, which the member for Mudgeeraba is now referring to at length.

**Ms BATES:** No, I am not.

**Mr BAILEY:** I ask her to come back to the bill.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Mudgeeraba, you are drawing a very long bow. I counsel you to come back to the long title of the bill; otherwise you will resume your seat.

**Ms BATES:** As I mentioned, we are going to have tow trucks lined up on the M1, particularly now that the speed limit has been reduced to 100 kilometres an hour.

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The bill refers to the regulation of tow trucks on private property. The M1, I can inform the member, is not private property.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Mudgeeraba, I have given you some very clear guidance. Remain within the long title of the bill or I will instruct you to resume your seat and we will continue on with the debate.

**Ms BATES:** I will conclude my remarks by saying that tow trucks are certainly going to have a very busy two weeks thanks to this Labor government, whose inaction will make sure that people on the Gold Coast do not forget.