




Speech By
Shane King

MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH

Record of Proceedings, 7 March 2018

MOTION: FUEL PRICE MONITORING

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (6.34 pm): I rise to speak in support of the amendment to the motion before the House. I listen to my constituents in my electorate of Kurwongbah and I know that they are sick and tired of being hurt in the pocket at the bowser. It is time for some transparency and accountability from the LNP. It is time for it to show where it stands. As a motoring enthusiast with a great iconic venue, Lakeside raceway, in my electorate, I and my constituents as well as many other enthusiasts who travel from far and wide to enjoy this facility know how much a spike in fuel prices can affect not only business and the day-to-day commute but also recreational time at the track.

The federal government's Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has identified fuel price transparency as a national issue that is not unique to Queensland. Anyone would have to agree that the ACCC would be the best placed organisation to regulate these matters consistently for Australian motorists and industry. In looking at this issue, our government must consider and ensure that any mandatory real-time monitoring system does not add red tape that may inadvertently add extra costs to the price of petrol, because we know that those opposite would be quick to throw a tantrum over that.

Also, many retailers are national operators and the regulatory burden of a real-time fuel price reporting system would be reduced by a streamlined, nationally consistent approach. However, this is not enough. I am informed that on 27 February both Minister Lynham and our Treasurer wrote to the federal Treasurer to urge him to take national action on this issue as this issue is not unique to Queensland and a federal solution would benefit everyone. I for one look forward to the federal Treasurer's response, but I am not holding out hope. I am not holding out hope because time and time again the LNP has failed to stand up for Queensland and Queenslanders. We have spent considerable time in this place this week trying to educate those opposite about how little regard Malcolm Turnbull apparently has for Queenslanders and our state. The member for Nanango and the member for Everton should think long and hard about putting Queenslanders before their mates in Canberra when they speak. In fact, when they next speak maybe they could stand up and tell their federal mates that they need to look at not cutting our GST. I am pleased that now members of the LNP want to discuss this issue. They must have a short memory.

The issue of fuel prices is not new, and what did they do in their three years of government? Nothing. I suppose with all of the cutting, sacking and selling going on there was little time to worry about fuel prices. We on this side of the chamber have always recognised the impact of fuel pricing—

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry, member. The clock was paused. It had been paused since when I just spoke before.

Mr KING: About 25 seconds?

Mr SPEAKER: Yes.

Mr KING: We have always recognised the impact of fuel prices on Queenslanders. In fact, Minister Bailey held a fuel price summit in 2016 and from that summit we put an end to misleading price boards. Because of this fine work, from 31 January 2018 the price people see is the price they pay at the pump. The RACQ has called for changes to misleading fuel price boards since 2012, and I commend it for its persistence and great work in looking after the motorists of our great state.

During the 2012 election the LNP claimed that it would have a look at it during government. Those opposite either did not care enough to have a look or did have a look and could not see an issue, and I have already suggested why that may have been the case—cut, sack and sell. The previous LNP government was all talk and no action, promising petrol price board reform for Queenslanders yet sitting on its hands for three years.

To now think that there is a silver bullet solution is at best wilfully ignorant and at worst incompetent. It is abundantly clear that those opposite are blinkered on the issue. As I said, they could help by getting on the phone to their mates in Canberra but, once again, I will not hold my breath for that. Judging by their reaction this week to our request for them to act for Queensland and not for Canberra, they seem content to let Malcolm Turnbull and their LNP mates in Canberra run all over Queensland. If they were half serious, they would be screaming at them to act in support of our great state.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr KING: The evidence is clear. It is right before us. They are doing it again. I urge the members opposite—and all members—to support the amended motion.