




Speech By  
**Tim Mander**

**MEMBER FOR EVERTON**

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**MOTION: FUEL PRICE MONITORING**

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (6.08 pm): I rise to second the motion that the Leader of the Opposition has moved. The Minister for Energy has continued the same theme that we heard earlier today, 'If we can't fix it, we'll blame somebody else.' The amendment to this motion shows again that same theme, 'We've got no solutions. We can't do anything about it. We're going to blame somebody else.'

While Queensland motorists are paying through the nose for petrol, this Labor government is ignoring solutions that we are putting right before its eyes. These are simple solutions that they can adopt tomorrow. Why do they hate motorists? I do not know. Fuel prices affect a heck of a lot of Queenslanders, whether it is mums and dads, whether it is students, whether it is tradies, whether it is transport companies—

**An opposition member:** Unions.

**Mr MANDER:** I will take that interjection. Unions as well would be affected by fuel prices. The latest ACCC report on the petrol industry for the December quarter outlined that retail prices in Brisbane are regularly higher than those in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth. Prior to that the ACCC released the findings of its report on the Brisbane petrol market in October last year, and I will quote this because it is very important. It states—

Petrol prices in Brisbane have been significantly higher than those in the other four largest cities ... in Australia for the last eight years. Between 2009-10 and 2016-17, Brisbane motorists paid on average 3.3 cents per litre more for petrol than motorists in the other four largest cities.

The main factor influencing the higher prices in Brisbane is higher retail margins on petrol, which have contributed to profits in Brisbane being significantly higher than the average across Australia.

The report continues—

The cost to motorists in Brisbane of higher petrol prices has been significant, at least \$50 million per annum.

The report also found that retail pricing is less competitive in Brisbane, with retailers setting prices higher at the top and bottom of the price cycle than retailers in Sydney. Furthermore, Brisbane has fewer retail chains which price competitively and aggressively. There is no doubt that petrol prices in Queensland are higher, particularly in Brisbane, than in other capital cities right across the country.

The latest quarterly inflation figures released by the ABS for the December quarter indicate that the most significant price increases for the quarter were automotive fuel at 10.4 per cent. Meanwhile, regular Queensland household budgets are under strain through increasing electricity costs all because of fuel prices. The simple fact is that fuel prices in this state are far too high. The LNP knows it, the RACQ knows it, the ACCC knows it and the motoring public knows it. The only people who seem to be oblivious to this fact is this lazy Labor government.

We have seen the Premier come out and flatly refuse to adopt this. The Minister for Transport said the same thing, but a week or two ago we did see the Minister for Energy backtrack a little bit and say that they will consider these options. This, of course, is while the Premier was overseas in

Hollywood. The Minister for Energy thought, 'I have a bit of an opportunity here while the boss is away to backtrack on this,' because they are feeling the heat from Queensland motorists. We know that this government is a flip-flop government. It flip-flops all over the place, whether it is Adani, ASF or the Logan Renewal Initiative, but we are begging the Premier to flip-flop on this. We want her to flip-flop. We will welcome this flip-flop so that the Queensland motoring public can benefit. Mr Speaker, I am asking the Premier to swallow her pride, admit that she is wrong and adopt the LNP policy.

*(Time expired)*