



Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

Record of Proceedings, 17 September 2019

TRANSPORT LEGISLATION (FEES) AMENDMENT REGULATION

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (6.19 pm): I rise to oppose the motion. The increase to registration in Queensland is relatively low compared to other states in Australia. The most popular car in Australia is the Toyota Hilux and we are the third cheapest state in Australia to register a Hilux. We are also the third cheapest state in Australia to register a Toyota Corolla. Unlike New South Wales, we do not require vehicle owners to undertake a compulsory annual safety check—a huge saving for taxpayers. This is money in Queenslanders' pockets.

In other states the increase in registration costs has been far greater. In South Australia, the Liberal-National government has raised registration fees for four-cylinder cars by a whopping 5.5 per cent. Owners of a vehicle such as a Toyota Hilux will be paying 5.3 per cent more. The same goes for the owners of eight-cylinder vehicles, with a 5.4 per cent rise for owners of six-cylinder vehicles. Rego is also going up in the Northern Territory, up by 2.7 per cent for four-, six- and eight-cylinder vehicles. In Western Australia rego fees are going up also. Compared to Queensland's 2.25 per cent increase, in WA, owners of four- and six-cylinder vehicles will now be paying 2.6 per cent more. My daughter is very fortunate because she has lived in all of those states, so she would be facing increased registration costs.

Victoria is also increasing registration costs and it is higher than Queensland's increase at 2.5 per cent. In Queensland the rises are not only lower as a percentage, but the total fees are lower for the most popular cars compared to most jurisdictions. The cost of registering a medium size four-cylinder car like a Toyota Corolla in Queensland for 12 months is \$737.10. As I have already said, this is the third cheapest in Australia. In New South Wales you would pay \$905.38, in Victoria it would cost you \$834.80 and registering the same car in the ACT would set you back a whopping \$990.45. That is \$253.35 more than the registration costs here in Queensland.

It also costs more in other states to register a Toyota Hilux, which, as I have already said, is the top-selling car in the country. Queensland is, as we know, the third cheapest jurisdiction to register a Hilux and Hilux owners pay \$783.30 for a yearly registration. In New South Wales—wait for it—they are charged a huge fee of \$1,323.86. In South Australia the fee is hefty, with one-year registration coming in at \$1,152.14. The ACT charges \$1,319.60. Think about it: just across the border Hilux owners are paying \$540.56 more to register their vehicles. Other jurisdictions also have fees that drivers have to pay to keep their cars on the road. Some jurisdictions charge administration fees. Some charge a weight tax. Some charge a motor tax. Other jurisdictions charge emergency services fees and road rescue fees.

In addition to talking about the costs of registration in other states, I want to talk about the LNP's approach to registration. What the LNP does not like to talk about is that when it left office it had planned in the forward estimates to increase registration by 3.5 per cent each and every year. This cynical motion from the LNP would mean cuts to projects which Queenslanders are expecting. It would also deliver a funding black hole and the LNP has no idea how it would patch that hole. That funding black hole would be as much as \$300 million and it has no plan to pay for it. On top of that is its \$9 billion in unfunded promises, also with no plan to pay for it.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Ms PEASE: We know that the LNP will also cut, sack and sell—we have the architect of that sitting in this very room with us today—to fill its unfunded black hole. This year we were unable to reduce the LNP's 3.5 per cent registration increase to a more manageable 2.25 per cent increase in line with inflation. If the LNP was in power now, we would still be seeing 3.5 per cent increases year on year. The Palaszczuk government made a commitment to a fairer system for indexing fees. Instead of simply applying flat rises year on year like the LNP planned, we are indexing fees and charges to CPI.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Ms PEASE: The rate being set in the middle of the year also enables businesses and families to know the rate in advance and budget ahead.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

A government member: No need to be rude.

Ms PEASE: I want to acknowledge the rudeness and bad mannered behaviour of the member for Chatsworth, who is actually a bully, because tonight I will be hosting—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Order! Member for Lytton, through the chair.

Mr MINNIKIN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. For my first ever time, I take offence at what was just said by the member for Lytton and I ask her to withdraw. I take personal offence.

Ms PEASE: I withdraw. Tonight I am hosting—and I have my guests upstairs watching—the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians young women's event. They will be delighted to have witnessed the member for Chatsworth and his outrageous behaviour in the House. I hope some of them are constituents of Chatsworth and have been able to see bad behaviour. The rate being set in the middle of the year—

Mr MINNIKIN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I again take personal offence at the comment just made by the member for Lytton and ask her to withdraw.

Ms PEASE: I withdraw. The Palaszczuk government is providing certainty and affordability into the future. We are investing in infrastructure which registration fees help to pay for. For example, in my electorate of Lytton the government's investment in the \$400 million comprehensive planning study for the Lindum level crossing is being delivered partly thanks to the money collected from registration fees. Queenslanders will always do better under a Labor government, and it is no different under this Palaszczuk Labor government. The alternative is an LNP with unfunded black holes that only knows how to cut, sack and sell.