




Speech By
Mark Robinson

MEMBER FOR OODGEROO

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ADJOURNMENT

North Stradbroke Island, Four-Wheel Drive Beach Access Fee

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (7.12 pm): I rise on behalf of the people of North Stradbroke Island who have suffered yet another kick from this Labor government. Not content with prematurely shutting down the resource industry with no viable plan for jobs, the Trad controlled Palaszczuk government has further damaged the economy by tripling a tourism tax on four-wheel drive access to the island's beaches. Stradbroke Island really is the best kept tourism destination secret in South-East Queensland, and Labor seems determined to keep it a secret by making it harder for working families to get there!

With local businesses sabotaged by resources workers being thrown out of their jobs and leaving the island, tourism is now the main economic lifeline. Tourism operators are doing their utmost to attract visitors while Labor seems to be doing its utmost to stop them. The government is only listening to its green left Extinction Rebellion friends in West End. The real fight against extinction is being waged by the desperate island residents I met with last week who are beside themselves about Labor's callous and cruel tax.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Dr ROBINSON: The comments on my Facebook page say it all, and it would pay for the minister to listen. One business leader said—

This is another attack on local residents and the regular visitors that local businesses rely on week in week out.

Steve said—

We go to Straddie several times every year and always down the beach to camp. This grab for money means we will not be going back. The ferry was expensive but this permit cost increase kills it for us which we are very unhappy about ...

Steve then went on to use three angry emojis and two swearing emojis. Greg said—

And the relatively high car transfer fare ... keeps discouraging tourists to choose these islands over the mainland coast. Why pay another night's accommodation's worth just on getting there?

We cannot tax our way to growth and taxing the island does not grow tourism. This government has become the anvil around the ankle of the people of Stradbroke Island. There was no consultation with local business owners, local residents, four-wheel drive owners, Redland City Council, members of parliament nor the majority of the Quandamooka people. Labor's member for Capalaba has said publicly that it was a poor decision, and he is right. He said that he was not consulted and that he would speak to the minister. I wonder how that is going.

What have the other local members said? Crickets! Their silence says volumes about their support for this tax. The Premier confirmed in parliament this morning that she still is not listening and she will not reverse the decision of dodgy Jackie Trad, the member for South Brisbane, choosing

instead to take the money. This begs the question as to what the \$31 million economic transition fund is for. If only Labor knew how to manage money! Labor's 'Trad-broke' island plan for North Stradbroke Island must change and the Straddie tax must go.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Before I call the member for Stretton, there is nothing in the standing orders about emojis. However, I do think that swear emojis would not be appropriate and I ask the member to withdraw that particular reference.

Dr ROBINSON: I withdraw my comments about swearing emojis.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: No need to repeat it; just the withdrawal. Thank you, member for Oodgeroo.