




Speech By  
**Patrick Weir**

**MEMBER FOR CONDAMINE**

---

Record of Proceedings, 17 September 2019

### **TRANSPORT LEGISLATION (FEES) AMENDMENT REGULATION**

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (6.38 pm): I rise to speak in support of this motion to disallow section 43 of the Transport Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2019, Subordinate Legislation No. 74. Queenslanders are sick and tired of being slugged more and more for their car registration by this government. Motorists are sick and tired of being treated as cash cows by this Palaszczuk government. The increases in registration continue to add to the burden of already out-of-control cost-of-living pressures for the people of this state.

For the past five years, motorists have been unfairly slugged with above-inflation tax hikes on registration fees. This latest increase will place a further strain on household budgets, particularly for those in regional Queensland who are doing it tough enough as it is. The effects of the drought are being felt right across the Condamine electorate, with some farmers unsure when their next income will be coming in. These everyday Queenslanders genuinely cannot afford another rate hike.

They are paying to freight water. They are paying more to truck livestock. They are paying more to truck in grain from whatever part of the country they can access it from in the first place. They are paying more for electricity. Now they are paying more again for their registration due to this above-inflation price hike. The current climate, especially for those in rural and regional Queensland, is enough to suffer through without a state government, that cannot control its finances, asking them to dip into their pockets time and time again.

It is not just the people on the land. We have large freight companies in the seat of Condamine. Their trucks are sitting idle. As we heard from the member for Southern Downs, while there is no produce being produced their wheels are not turning. It is the same for the contractors scattered throughout the electorate of Condamine. When there are no crops growing they are not busy so their machinery is parked in the shed and they are paying these increased costs on that machinery to sit idle.

Tens of thousands of Queenslanders are struggling to pay their bills. We have high electricity prices yet the Palaszczuk Labor government imposes a further registration increase to add to the cost-of-living pressures on the community. Whether it is driving to work, dropping the kids off to school or doing the weekly grocery shop, Queenslanders are feeling the pinch from increased transport costs. Not only that, but to find out Queenslanders are paying more than the average of other states and territories is just another kick in the guts that families in this state cannot afford.

Queensland motorists contributed over \$1.9 billion in registration tax revenue this year. It is unacceptable that these charges have been going up well above inflation. In fact, since Annastacia Palaszczuk was elected Premier, registration costs have gone up 17.3 per cent. It is recognised that the funds collected from registration fees contribute to the building and maintenance of our road network, but this money needs to be invested wisely to deliver the best value for taxpayer dollars.

I have constantly asked for flashing safety lights at Crows Nest, repairs to the Bowenville Moola Road, a turning lane westbound on the Warrego Highway at the Oakey Pittsworth Road intersection, even a simple pedestrian crossing in Pittsworth, but the community of Condamine are still waiting. The

minister allocated \$4.5 million to upgrade the Bowenville Norwin Road. It is 22 kilometres on black soil. It is estimated that it will cost \$1 million a kilometre to rebuild this road. It has been damaged again since those upgrades have started.

I have asked for widening of Brimblecombe Road. I wrote to the minister about the dangerous condition of the Clifton Leyburn Road. I rode in the school bus along that road and it is nothing short of dangerous. I will admit the minister did take action. Within a couple of weeks there was a 'rough surface' sign and the speed limit went down to 80 kilometres an hour on that road. Problem solved! The list goes on.

If we are going to pay more for registration then people should at least feel safer on Queensland roads and know that their money is going towards making sure they are driving on the best possible roads. We heard from the member for Southern Downs about a \$45 million bike lane between the electorates of Miller and Greenslopes. That money would do a lot to make the kids on the Clifton Leyburn Road much safer.

Labor has poor form when it comes to transport matters. When Annastacia Palaszczuk was transport minister, public transport fares went up 15 per cent year after year. Annastacia Palaszczuk and transport minister Mark Bailey are clearly not up to the task in this state and this latest cash grab is only being implemented to prop up a Labor government that cannot manage the state's finances and its only financial plan is to tax and charge everyday Queenslanders out of its budget black hole.