




Speech By
Cynthia Lui

MEMBER FOR COOK

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Freight Retail Discount Scheme

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (2.32 pm): During the community cabinet held in the Torres Strait in September 2022 the government was able to hear directly from community about the cost-of-living challenges communities face every day. The concerns raised by communities were heard loud and clear, and I want to acknowledge the strong advocacy from the region. The Palaszczuk government heard their voices loud and clear, and before cabinet departed the region the Premier made a bold commitment to host a cost-of-living summit in the Torres Strait.

In March this year I had the privilege of returning to the Torres Strait to co-chair the summit with Minister Mark Bailey at the Thursday Island sports complex. We were joined by Minister Enoch, Minister de Brenni and Queensland Government Champion for the Torres Strait, Minister Shannon Fentiman. The summit was attended by an estimated 100 participants from the Torres Strait region and Northern Peninsula Area region, including local community people, government and non-government agencies and the private sector. At the summit the Queensland government announced a \$64 million freight subsidy to help ease cost-of-living pressures in the Torres Strait, Cape York and gulf regions.

The Queensland government wasted no time getting to work on the best way forward that would directly impact consumers. Following the cost-of-living summit the Queensland government, through TMR, worked with independent adviser Deloitte Access Economics to identify how to most effectively deliver a freight funding package to address freight related cost-of-living pressures in the Northern Peninsula Area region, Torres Strait and gulf. TMR consulted with stakeholders including local councils, state and federal agencies, representative bodies, industry groups, Indigenous groups, freight and transport service providers and some retail stores to identify views about how the freight funding package may be most effectively applied to address freight related cost-of-living pressures in the regions. Common themes and feedback provided by stakeholders informed consideration of possible approaches to implement freight subsidy funding. These themes included a strong preference for freight subsidy funding to be applied as close as possible to the end customer to try to pass on the benefit to local residents in the community.

We recently announced that the freight retail discount scheme will be implemented in early 2024. The freight retail discount scheme will be delivered at participating stores in the Northern Peninsula Area, Torres Strait and the gulf region. This means that people shopping at participating stores will see a 5.2 per cent discount automatically applied to the price of eligible goods at the cash register. The eligible essential goods list includes groceries sold by participating retail outlets but does not include ineligible goods. Groceries are everyday food and household items that individuals or households regularly purchase for basic sustenance and domestic needs, including fresh and non-perishable food products, beverages, household cleaning supplies, toiletries and other essential goods for daily living. It does not include ineligible goods such as alcohol, tobacco and tobacco-like products including nicotine and vaping products, full-sugar soft drinks, confectionery, furniture, hardware, fuel, electrical appliances, clothing, white goods, furnishings, Manchester, bathroom equipment and kitchen utensils.

I would like to thank the Palaszczuk government, and in particular Minister Bailey, his department and ministerial staff, for all of their hard work behind the scenes to ease cost-of-living pressures in the Torres Strait, Cape York and gulf regions, where we continue to work towards improving outcomes for our most disadvantaged and vulnerable communities.