



Speech By  
**Hon. Bart Mellish**


**MEMBER FOR ASPLEY**

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Record of Proceedings, 20 March 2024

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Transport**

 **Hon. BJ MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (9.59 am): We know that Queensland families are feeling the pinch. That is why in December one of the Premier's first announcements was to freeze the cost of rego and public transport fares in 2024. This will save Queenslanders more than \$83 million, putting money back in the wallets of Queensland families each and every day. We know that every dollar counts, and this will mean more flexibility for Queenslanders to manage their household budgets. This builds on the number of concessions already on offer to Queensland transport users.

South-East Queensland public transport commuters have already saved over \$400 million in fares since the introduction of our Fairer Fares initiative in 2016. We have frozen fares for four years since 2015 including through COVID. This government offers eligible seniors and concession card holders 50 per cent off registration fees and public transport fares. More than 134,000 eligible seniors currently have a 50 per cent concession applied to their car rego and almost 500,000 seniors and pensioner go cards are registered with TransLink, providing access to half-price public transport fares right around the state. Public transport remains the cheapest way to commute and will become even more convenient as we bring more stations online as part of Cross River Rail.

The Miles government also recognises that the learner licence is a key tool for people in gaining better access to employment and education opportunities. Last week I visited Rockhampton State High School along with the RACQ and the ARTIE Foundation to deliver a new car to the school that learner drivers can use to get their 100 hours. This will be a game changer for many young people and it is great to see how our investment in road safety can change lives.

Further on learner licences, our new \$75 fee is expected to benefit over 70,000 learners each year and will assist families with cost-of-living pressures. Already more than 130,000 young Queenslanders have taken advantage of the reduced fee. We have also halved the cost to replace a licence, photo ID or industry authority card to \$35. The Miles government continues to deliver a better and fairer future for Queensland families.