



Speech By  
**Hon. Bart Mellish**


**MEMBER FOR ASPLEY**

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Record of Proceedings, 11 June 2024

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Public Transport, Fares**

 **Hon. BJ MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (9.46 am): We know that every dollar counts. Last month, I joined the Premier and Deputy Premier to announce an Australian first—50-cent fares for every trip taken on a Translink service. This will mean savings Queenslanders can see every single day. From Monday, 5 August for six months all Translink public transport fares in Queensland will be a flat rate of 50 cents across all zones. A person catching the train from Robina to Bowen Hills four days a week will save more than \$2,100 over six months. As the Minister for Transport, I want everyone to be able to access public transport easily and affordably, and this initiative will go a long way in achieving that.

We will be looking closely at the results of the trial to determine if it meets our goals of providing critical cost-of-living relief, reducing road congestion and encouraging more people back onto trains, trams, buses and ferries. Most importantly, this initiative means more money back in the pockets of Queensland families. We know they are feeling the pinch, and I was proud to join the Premier and Deputy Premier last weekend to also announce a 20 per cent reduction in rego fees for 12 months. This is a cost-of-living measure we anticipate will benefit millions of car owners across the state. This builds on our previously announced freeze on rego fee increases, set to come into effect from next month. For a family with a four-cylinder car, the reduction will mean an \$85 saving on their rego fee—money that can be spent on groceries, the mortgage or rent or put into savings.

Not only does our rego reduction benefit millions of Queensland drivers, but it will also put more money back in the till of more than 480,000 small businesses across the state. The rego reduction will apply to the rego fee and the traffic improvement fee for all light vehicles, regardless of purpose of use. The fee will also apply to trailers utilised by mobile small businesses across the state. We know that vehicle expenses can have a big impact on the bottom line for Queensland's hardworking small and family businesses, especially those who need to run a fleet. For a tradie's journey to the job site, for school drop offs or for students getting to uni, our cost-of-living relief will deliver savings everyone can see. I am proud to be part of a government that is listening to Queenslanders to help deliver the cost-of-living relief they need to make ends meet.

I also joined the Deputy Premier last month to announce half-price Airtrain fares for six months—an initiative that will benefit tens of thousands of travellers, as well as the more than 20,000 people who work at Brisbane Airport. For too long Queenslanders have been short-changed on Airtrain fares by a dud deal struck by a former LNP government.

This government has a plan for transporting Queensland and only a Labor government will deliver the transport infrastructure and cost-of-living relief that Queenslanders need.