




Speech By  
**Bart Mellish**

**MEMBER FOR ASPLEY**

---

Record of Proceedings, 11 June 2025

**POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES (MAKING JACK'S LAW  
PERMANENT) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL; CORRECTIVE  
SERVICES (PAROLE BOARD) AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (7.40 pm): I rise to speak specifically on the amendments that were circulated a couple of hours ago, regarding toll amendments specifically. These amendments are a sneaky and shameless attempt to make it easier to increase and introduce new tolls. In terms of introducing tolls, this could affect the Story Bridge and the Coomera Connector. In terms of increasing existing tolls, this could affect the Gateway Bridge and the Logan Motorway. These amendments look technical but their implications are far-reaching. They quietly pave the way for tolls to be declared on Queensland roads with less scrutiny and less transparency. These laws mean they can slap a toll on any road or hike up an existing road toll without fear, favour or proper consultation.

Why have they smuggled this into a bill that is completely unrelated to these matters being raised? Why was this brought in after the sun has set on the night they want to pass this bill? What is the urgency? What is in the budget that they had to smuggle this in? What deal has been done?

The explanatory notes maybe let the cat out of the bag on this. When you go down to the objective of the amendments, the third dot point, it mentions 'remove a significant administrative burden to more easily facilitate and streamline necessary upgrade projects on the Gateway and Logan Motorways'. What projects are there set to be announced in the budget, or is the government lining up? Who are they having discussions with about these 'necessary upgrade projects' which have not been mentioned publicly? What is to come?

The amendments remove longstanding restrictions that applied specifically to the Gateway and Logan motorways. That is not red-tape reduction; that is clearing the runway for more tolls and increased tolls.

Local governments will also gain the power to declare tolls in stages. Why is that in this amendment? This opens the door for councils to seek tolling arrangements like we have seen with Brisbane City Council floating the idea of tolling the Story Bridge. We know the Story Bridge is in disrepair. Is this the LNP Brisbane City Council and the Crisafulli government's plan to pass costs onto Queenslanders? We know council have punted their chair this week responsible for the Story Bridge mess and they have shifted a few people around there. What is the LNP plan for the Story Bridge?

More broadly, this is not about reducing administrative burden; it is about removing safeguards. It creates a slippery slope for new tolls being introduced without proper community consultation or accountability. What does the LNP have planned for tolls on the Coomera Connector? What are they talking to Brisbane City Council about regarding the Story Bridge? At a time when—

**Ms BATES:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I ask if the speaker is talking to the long title of the bill. What he is saying does not seem to be relevant.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr McDonald): Thank you very much, member for Mudgeeraba. As we heard in the Speaker's ruling this morning, standing order 139, I believe it is, outlines that amendments by the opposition which are outside of the long title of the bill may not be successful and may set an agenda outside the bill, whereas government amendments can be debated in the House because there is a likelihood that they will proceed. The member is entitled to proceed.

**Mr MELLISH:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. It is concerning that the member for Mudgeeraba, the Minister for Finance, has not been brought into the loop on significant amendments—the government's own amendments to their own bill—regarding tolling, or that tolling was an issue the finance minister might be across, but she is obviously not in the loop on this one. Raising toll prices in Queensland would unfairly burden commuters already grappling with rising living costs. The LNP seem to think cost-of-living pressures have magically disappeared. They have ruled out energy rebates, they have hiked up rego and now they want to chase Queenslanders for more tolls.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. Up until this point, the member was most certainly being relevant to the amendments. These matters are administrative in nature. They address section 93AA. They most certainly do not relate to cost-of-living measures or the increase of tolling in any way whatsoever.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Buderim. Member for Aspley, for the benefit of the House, can you relate the contribution that you are making to the standing orders, please?

**Mr MELLISH:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I was winding up my contribution there, but I am happy to talk about the specific tolling amendments as they apply to this bill. I am sure we will have more to say about this as the night goes on.