



Speech By  
**Bart Mellish**

**MEMBER FOR ASPLEY**

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Record of Proceedings, 25 March 2026

## MOTION

### Fuel Security



**Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (5.39 pm): Thank you for the reminder, Mr Speaker. I move—

That:

1. this House condemns the Crisafulli LNP government for its lack of fuel affordability action in Queensland;
2. this House condemns Crisafulli LNP government members for indicating that the Transport Affordability Amendment Bill that will take real action against increased fuel prices in Queensland is a political stunt;
3. in lieu of any meaningful action by the Crisafulli LNP government, this House calls on the federal government to immediately undertake further actions to ensure Queenslanders have available the fuel supply they need;
4. notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders the Transport Affordability Amendment Bill 2026 be declared an urgent bill, discharged from the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee and be considered by this House during this week's sitting.

We stand on the side of Queenslanders wanting affordable fuel. This morning I had the opportunity to appear before the state development committee to speak on Labor's Transport Affordability Amendment Bill and the real practical difference it would make to the lives of Queenslanders. Instead of engaging with the substance of the bill, government committee members chose to play politics—delivering cheap political statements rather than asking the serious questions Queenslanders deserve. Government members even called capping fuel price increases a political stunt. Let me say that fighting for affordable transport is not a political stunt. Queensland Labor has done the work. We have stood with the RACQ and taken up the fight for fairer, cheaper fuel. Our plan is ready to go. Our bill would cap price increases at five cents a day.

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Buderim, I notice your name is on the speaking list. You will get your turn.

**Mr MELLISH:** The bill would require prices to be reported to the regulator and locked in by 2 pm the day before. These are sensible, measured reforms designed to deliver certainty to Queenslanders. If you are waiting for your next pay to land before you fill up, you deserve the ability to plan ahead and not be ambushed at the bowser. The ACCC data shows that Brisbane has a six-week fuel cycle, meaning motorists do not have the luxury of waiting until the price cycle reaches its low point to fill up. The solutions to this are on the table, but the LNP government refuses to even come to the table. All of this is unfolding against the backdrop of global instability. In just a matter of weeks since military action began in Iran we have seen exactly how unfair our fuel system really is. Let's be honest: it has not just become broken; it has been broken for a long time.

Other states are cracking down on the bad actors—the fuel retailers exploiting a supply issue and international crisis to supercharge their profits. Instead, the Deputy Premier has been stroking his ego, appearing before the Queensland Media Club today to 'a room full of hundreds', he boasted this

afternoon. I say to the Deputy Premier that Queenslanders out there struggling to make ends meet and already paying 24 per cent higher rego under this government are now battling to afford record high petrol prices. They could not give a damn about the two-course alternate drop at the Media Club.

This government has the wrong priorities. When Queensland Labor is talking about what can be done to assist the daily lives of Queenslanders, the Deputy Premier is talking about the size of his pitch. As shadow transport minister, I have spoken directly with industry bodies, transport operators, farmers and tourism businesses all struggling under immense pressure. They are all asking the same question: what is their government doing to help them? Sadly, the answer so far is nothing.

In New South Wales, Fair Trading inspectors have been at fuel stations actively investigating price gouging. Where is our Attorney-General? What action has the Office of Fair Trading in Queensland taken? What directive have they been given? Nothing! It is not often we hear silence from the Attorney-General. In Victoria the energy minister is engaging with distributors to ensure smaller independent stations are not cut off from supply, ensuring that no community is left behind. Where is our energy minister? What has he done? What Queenslanders see day after day is a government that is missing in action.

It is clear that even some LNP backbenchers can understand what is currently at stake here. The member for Mirani said it plainly—

... fuel is not just about getting from A to B; it is about keeping our industries running, food on our tables, our communities connected and our economy moving.

He is right. The member for Hinchinbrook said it, too: when fuel prices spike regional Queenslanders feel it first and hardest. I agree; they clearly understand the problem, but will they stand by their words and back our solution?

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr Chiesa** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Hinchinbrook, I also notice you are on the list, so you will have your opportunity. At the moment it is the member for Aspley who is speaking.

**Mr MELLISH:** Any regional LNP MP sitting in this chamber who does not support our bill that would limit fuel price increases needs to go back to their electorate on Friday and explain to their constituents that they have chosen to play politics instead of delivering real change. The LNP should explain to their constituents, who are often copping the highest prices in the state, why they still cannot bring themselves to support our plan for action. If they are complicit in voting down this motion today they have made their choice very clear. They have bent their knee to the Premier and turned their back on the very Queenslanders who sent them here.

If the Premier refuses to get his shirt dirty for affordable fuel for all Queenslanders, it shows he is just a slick slogan. He does not want to withstand any scrutiny. We saw it in question time today. Whenever he gets a question he does not like, he remains grumpily araldited into his seat for a few long seconds while he looks over wistfully at the Leader of the House to save his bacon with a point of order. Queenslanders need leadership, but Queensland does not have a Premier in charge; Queensland has a pedestrian in charge.

The Premier said in January 2025 that he owed it to Queenslanders to look at these measures, but that was just another slick slogan. The Premier said that he would look at this, but here we are 14 months later and we have seen nothing from this Premier. He does not want to answer questions. He does not want to front up and look at what can be done. He is hiding on this issue and Queenslanders are paying the price every single day when they go to fill up with petrol. They have a government that is missing.