




Speech By
Hon. Brent Mickelberg

MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

Record of Proceedings, 24 March 2026

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Fuel Security; E-Mobility Safety

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.58 am): The recent events in the Middle East have had repercussions that have been felt across the world including here in Queensland, but in a decentralised state like Queensland it hits particularly hard. Industry sources have advised me that Queensland's trucking industry uses about 11 million litres of diesel per day. That equates to approximately an \$188 million increase in costs for that industry just over the last 14 days, which is difficult to absorb when you are an operator running on already thin margins.

The federal government can and must do more to ensure that we have enough fuel here in Queensland and across Australia to keep our economy going. Our government has been highlighting fuel shortages long before the federal government admitted there was a problem. What have we heard from those opposite? Silence. There has been silence from the Labor opposition here in Queensland. Why were those opposite not standing up to their Labor mates in Canberra, picking up the phone and telling Canberra that Queensland's small and family businesses were hurting, that the industries that Queenslanders rely on are hurting?

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The minister is the only one who has the call.

Mr MICKELBERG: Why did those opposite not pick up the phone and tell Canberra that thousands were running dry? Our government did. Why did those opposite—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Your ruling in relation to what ministerial statements are about was quite clear: new policy, government reaction to a disaster or incident, or reporting back on government performance—not about politics or political attacks. I would ask you to remind the minister of the instructions contained in your ruling.

Mr SPEAKER: I cautioned the previous minister when she descended into a personal attack. Minister, you are aware of my ruling. Tread carefully.

Mr MICKELBERG: While fuel security is a national issue and requires a national response, we will do whatever we can to support the construction sector, the freight sector and the passenger services that Queenslanders rely on. Ultimately, the federal government must do more to ensure that the supply of fuel, not only here in Queensland but right across Australia, is maintained and secure.

During the last sitting, the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee handed down its report into e-mobility safety. It is a comprehensive report and again I thank the committee, led by the member for Lockyer, for their report and thank all of those who contributed to the inquiry. Unlike those opposite, we will not leave important work like this on the shelf to collect dust; we will act.

I am therefore very pleased to advise the House that legislation will be introduced this week to enact the recommendations in the report. That includes giving police the powers they need to get illegal and dangerous riders and devices off Queensland streets, helping to keep Queenslanders safe. The legislation will include new age restrictions, speed limits and licensing requirements and new powers for the seizure of illegal devices. We will also introduce RBTs for e-mobility devices—something Labor promised to implement but never did. I look forward to introducing that legislation this week.

Finally, I will provide the House with an update on the great LNP initiative of permanent 50-cent fares. I can advise that as at 20 March 2026 Queensland—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: We will not be able to hear this very important announcement with that level of noise.

Mr MICKELBERG: It is a very important announcement. I can advise that as at 20 March 2026 more than 230 million trips have been undertaken since the introduction of permanent 50-cent fares in February 2025. It has delivered Queenslanders more than \$497 million in savings compared to the previous fare structure presided over by those opposite. That means there is \$497 million in Queensland commuters' pockets. Those opposite would have pocketed that. Queenslanders are saving under a LNP Crisafulli government that made 50-cent fares permanent.