




Speech By
Hon. Brent Mickelberg

MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

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MOTION

Fuel Security

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (6.38 pm): What a rambling, incoherent attempt at a policy from a listless and lazy opposition, led by a listless and lazy opposition leader. One need only look at the now opposition leader's own words to see how hollow this pathetic motion is from those opposite today. On 6 August 2024 the now opposition leader—there is a reason he is not speaking on this motion—said—

We don't control global oil prices and we can't force privately owned petrol retailers to charge less at the bowser ...

That is the Leader of the Opposition's record. That is what he said. It might explain why he has been silent for the last two weeks. As the federal government sat on their hands, did he pick up the phone to Canberra? Has he rung Chris Bowen or Albo and said, 'I think we've got a bit of a problem here, Canberra'? Did he ring Catherine King? I had a chat to Catherine King. I said, 'You know, we've got a problem here in Queensland. We're running out of fuel. You guys need to provide some supply. We've got a problem.' My question to the Leader of the Opposition is: have you rung him, mate? Did you ring him? Did you pick up the phone?

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, speak through the chair, please, and use correct titles.

Mr MICKELBERG: I take your guidance, Mr Speaker. This Labor opposition are failing. They are failing at every turn. The leader-in-waiting, the member for Waterford, belled the cat. She said—I will broadly quote, because I do not want to verbal her—'For the first time, the Labor opposition have brought in a policy without any backing.' That is what she said in her contribution. What a tremendous argument. The policy in this eight-page bill—it is pretty light on—has no modelling, no detail and no intent on how it would be operationalised. Do we want to roll out 'Stevo's servos' again? What a tremendous idea that was! That was their policy. They have not ruled that out.

Let's be very clear: this is an opposition that is devoid of capability, devoid of ideas and devoid of policy. Sausage sizzles and scare campaigns do not cut it. That is all those opposite have. The least one could say about this bill is the member for Aspley spelt his name correctly.

Mr SPEAKER: The clock—

Mr MICKELBERG: I am happy to go for 10, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: The clock is not correct. The minister has been going for two minutes and 44 seconds, according to this clock. Minister, I have you here. Keep going.

Mr MICKELBERG: Let's turn to the member for Aspley—that savant in Aspley. This is a bloke who is trying to divert attention from his appalling record as a minister if ever I have seen one. This is a bloke who had the opportunity to make 50-cent fares permanent. Apparently, he spoke to the then premier and now opposition leader about it on his first day as a minister. He had all of that time to make it permanent. When it came to the budget, what did he do? Nothing. He did not make it permanent. He spent more on advertising 50-cent fares than he did on making them permanent.

It took an LNP government to make them permanent, to fund them through the budget, as a responsible government does. He had an ambition. He had a desire. He spoke about it on the first day. He did nothing. In fact, they actually cite the LNP's permanent 50-cent fares in their own explanatory notes to this bill as being evidence of success. I agree. It is a great success. It is a great LNP initiative that has been delivered by the Crisafulli government. Those opposite could not deliver it, even though they were in power for 10 years.

The member for Aspley's record is overseeing a \$6.7 billion blowout in road and rail projects. That is his record. On the radio a couple of weeks ago, Steve Austin asked him, 'What did you actually do in the former government?' I have to say that I and many Queenslanders have been asking ourselves the same question. He is clearly so worried about his job that he has taken to doorknocking in Stafford next door. He has jumped over the border and he is knocking on doors in Stafford. We know that he is worried about his existence, and he should be. The performances we saw today in front of the committee were disgraceful—absolutely incompetent. They had to bring in the protection squad—the Leader of the Opposition and the leader-in-waiting—

Mr MELLISH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. On behalf of everyone's ears, I take personal offence and ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence and I ask that you withdraw. According to my clock, you have 30 seconds left.

Mr MICKELBERG: I withdraw. The federal government is responsible for supply. If those opposite were serious about tackling this problem, they would pick up the phone to Canberra and advocate.

Mr Butcher interjected.

Mr MICKELBERG: The member for Gladstone calls out about the Curtis Island ferry. I know Adam Balkin, mate, and I will be ringing him after this debate to tell him how you voted if you choose to vote against picking up the phone to Canberra.

(Time expired)