



Speech By  
**Hon. Brent Mickelberg**


**MEMBER FOR BUDERIM**

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Record of Proceedings, 26 March 2026

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Public Transport, Fares**

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.56 am): The Crisafulli LNP government's permanent 50-cent fares are continuing to deliver savings to the hip pocket of Queenslanders in the midst of the cost-of-living crisis Labor has left Queenslanders in. I recently heard claims by certain members of the now Labor opposition that they have been thinking about 50-cent fares since they were teenagers. It has been a while since I was a teenager, but we managed to make 50-cent fares permanent within the first 100 days of coming to government.

The results speak for themselves. Queenslanders have taken more than 230 million trips and patronage has increased by 22 per cent compared to the same period under Labor's previous fare structure. Importantly, bus patronage outside of South-East Queensland has also increased since the introduction of permanent 50-cent fares, with patronage rising by 25 per cent in Cairns, 19 per cent in Townsville—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Minister, could you pause for one moment, please? Members on my left, there is too much noise emanating from your benches.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Bus patronage outside of South-East Queensland has also increased since the introduction of permanent 50-cent fares. Patronage has risen by 25 per cent in Cairns, 19 per cent in Townsville and 29 per cent in Rockhampton. All of this would not have happened under Labor. We know that their temporary 50-cent-fare policy was only a short-term, six-month measure. Despite the apparent best endeavours of the failed former transport minister the member for Aspley, who said that he spoke to the opposition leader about 50-cent fares on 'the day he was sworn in as the transport minister', he still could not get the job done.

To my recollection, fares actually went up under the previous Palaszczuk Labor government, but I can assure Queenslanders that they are staying down under the Crisafulli LNP government. There is a very important reason they are staying down. Putting money back into the pockets of Queenslanders through the LNP's permanent 50-cent fares means that those kitchen table conversations about bills might be a little easier, it might make a family day out on the weekend a little more achievable or it might mean that those who might not otherwise be able to pick up an extra shift are able to because it is a little easier.

In an increasingly uncertain world, this sort of considered and meaningful cost-of-living relief is what Queenslanders are telling us they need now. To those Labor members opposite I say: this is what leadership looks like—not spending more on advertising than on making 50-cent fares permanent, not a politician flogging off sausages as part of some failed social media stunt. This is real action on cost of living by a real government committed to delivering for all Queenslanders.