




Speech By
Hon. Laura Gerber

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

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ADJOURNMENT

Fuel Security

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.03 pm): I rise to share the story of Jack, a local small business owner who runs a landscaping business in my electorate and is feeling the crushing impact of rising fuel costs. Like many trades, his business depends on fuel as a fundamental part of his day-to-day operations, and the current price at the pump is making it increasingly difficult for him to operate. He has two options: absorb these increases or pass them on, risking losing work and making it more expensive for consumers. Jack is not alone. He is just one of many local families and businesses struggling with affordability and access and worrying how much longer they can weather this crisis.

On my way to Brisbane yesterday I passed the BP at Tugun, where unleaded fuel was priced at \$2.70 and diesel was \$3.17. These are extraordinary prices and they are placing significant strain on families, tradies and small businesses who rely on their vehicles every day. It is about supply, which the federal government needs to tackle. Comments from Canberra suggesting there is more fuel today than two months ago fly in the face of the reality that Queenslanders are currently facing. They are paying more. It is harder to find fuel. They are worried about whether future shipments will arrive. We are a cross-border community. We need to act in unison. That is why we need to have a national approach. We need the federal government to get cracking on it. They must start giving us information about fuel prices and supply levels. We are asking Canberra for a national dashboard, for clear and consistent information on the flow of fuel across the country, because without that information uncertainty and anxiety grow. I have not seen it like this in my border community since COVID.

For our part, at the state level, we were the first state government to raise concerns and call on the federal government to urgently deal with fuel supply issues. We are doing our bit, including convening suppliers and retailers. We were the first state to announce our point of contact on the national taskforce, Mr Bob Gee, our very own Cross-Border Commissioner, and I thank him for the vital work he is currently doing. We are removing planning barriers to unlock new supply and secure fuel after the opening of new areas for gas and petroleum exploration like the Taroom Trough—a decision our government took even before this fuel crisis.

Our Crisafulli government has been clear: we want fuel to flow to Queenslanders, but this is a national issue that requires a national response. We will continue to call on Canberra to secure supply because Queenslanders like Jack in my electorate deserve certainty and deserve information. They do not deserve to suffer the anxiety they are currently suffering, not knowing what is going to happen day to day and worrying about whether we have enough supply. A national dashboard would ensure information flows not just to my border community but also across states. This is a national issue and we will continue to stand up for Queenslanders and back them on rising fuel costs.