

**Question on Notice**

**No. 464**

**Asked on 7 June 2013**

**MR HOLSWICH ASKED THE TREASURER AND MINISTER FOR TRADE (MR NICHOLLS)—**

**QUESTION:**

How is the Newman Government keeping its commitment to the people of Pine Rivers to lower the cost of living for families?

**ANSWER:**

A key priority for the Government is easing cost of living pressures on Queensland families. During the election, the Government indicated it would seek to save the average Queensland household up to \$330, and the Government delivered on this commitment by providing:

- \$63 million in 2012-13 to freeze the standard electricity tariff (Tariff 11), excluding the cost of carbon
- \$132.3 million over three years from 2012-13 to freeze car registration fees for more than 2.5 million family vehicles
- \$917 million over four years from 2013-14 to reinstate the principal place of residence concessional rate for stamp duty, providing savings of up to \$7,175 when buying a home
- \$92 million in 2012-13 to deliver a rebate of \$80 per connection for households supplied by the SEQ bulk water grid
- \$158.2 million over four years from 2012-13 to halve public transport fare increases due in 2013 and 2014
- \$39 million over four years from 2012-13 to reward regular commuters by reintroducing free travel on the Translink network after nine journeys in a Monday to Sunday week.

The total value of concessions is estimated at \$5.2B in 2013-14. This represents a significant Government and taxpayer commitment to improving the accessibility of key services by reducing the price paid by consumers. Some of the concessions include:

- over \$1.2 billion in general public transport subsidies;

- \$409 million in assistance under the government managed housing rental rebate scheme;
- \$136.8 million for the Electricity Rebate Scheme which provides a rebate of up to \$282 per annum to assist with the cost of domestic electricity for eligible Queenslanders;
- \$51.5 million for the Pensioner Rate Subsidy Scheme which offers a 20% subsidy (up to \$200 per annum) to lessen the impact of local government rates and charges;
- \$19.1 million for the SEQ Pensioner Water Subsidy Scheme which provides an annual subsidy of up to \$120 to eligible pensioner property owners in South East Queensland; and
- \$10 million for the Home Energy Emergency Assistance Scheme to ensure low-income households can get an emergency payment of up to \$720 if needed.