

Transport (Fees) Amendment Regulation (No. 1)

Mr BOOTHMAN (Albert—LNP) (8.05 pm): I support the car registration disallowance motion of the member for Glass House. Motor vehicles are a necessity in many parts of the Albert electorate. It is not a choice. It is not a want; in fact, it is a need for residents as choices in transport in certain areas are very limited. I refer to petition No. 2527-15 lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 15 March 2016 concerning the need for adequate public transport in the Pimpama region and in surrounding areas. I shall quote the minister's response—

There are a number of community-based transport services that may be of assistance to the elderly and less mobile residents. These include council cabs, which assist older people over 60 and those with a disability with their travels to local shopping centres.

If the minister did his homework, he would realise that, as outlined in the Gold Coast Cabs brochure of February 2016, council cabs do not service the Pimpama region. These residents have lived in the area for most of their lives and have paid taxes all their lives but are forced to own a motor vehicle as there are no other modes of transport in that area. Slogging these individuals, those who are least able to afford it, is a kick in the guts, and the minister should be ashamed of his response to the petition.

With unemployment continuing to place Queensland in a precarious situation and with apprenticeship creation falling from 44,000 in September 2013 to 30,000 under this government, the last thing we need is to place further pressures on individuals who cannot afford it. On top of this, I quote from the *Australian* of 18 May 2016—

The Australian Bureau of Statistics reported seasonal adjusted wage growth of 0.4 per cent for the March quarter.

This is the weakest wages growth in 18 years and the first thing this government does is increase car registration to double the rate of inflation, or 3.5 per cent.

Residents want value for money. They want to see where their money is going. At many a community roadside event I am asked, 'Where are our registration fees going?' It took an LNP government to organise funding for the first major Pacific Motorway interchange upgrade in a decade within the boundaries of the Albert electorate at exit 54. We achieved this major upgrade without kicking motorists in the guts.

Residents have a right to know where their taxes are going and they expect value for money. I must say that residents were certainly dismayed reading today's *Gold Coast Bulletin* which spoke about the deadweight there, where taxpayers are forking out for 32 extra fat cat bureaucrats to shuffle government papers ahead of the 2018 Commonwealth Games. To make matters worse, 31 of them are actually based in Brisbane, with only one temporary Gold Coast hiring. There was an announcement of a \$46 million black hole in this financial year for the department of major events, small business and the Commonwealth Games. Residents in the Albert electorate would love to have \$46 million. It would go a long way to fund an upgrade at the Pacific Motorway exit 41, or exit 45 or exit 49 or to fix the dangerous sections of the Beaudesert-Beenleigh Road south of Wolffdene.

In steep contrast, the LNP whilst in government froze the family car registration for three years, after the huge increases from the Bligh government. We are committed to keeping car registration to CPI, while this Labor government wants to slog families with a 3.5 per cent increase. All I can say to my residents is that this government will do it again next year.