

Jeff Seeney MP eNewsletter 2016 - edition 6

Welcome to the latest edition of my eNewsletter. I trust this eNewsletter is informative and of interest to you.

Topics covered in this issue include; registration increases under Labor, new technology for the Tree Police, uncertainty for the resources sector and Labor short changing regional Qld.

Palaszczuk ignores last chance to stop unfair rego slug

- **Labor MPs again voted to keep Anastacia Palaszczuk's unfair 3.5% car registration hike after the LNP moved to stop it**
- **The LNP froze car rego in government and has committed to keep further increases to the inflation rate**

Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk and all Queensland Labor MPs have again in Parliament rejected a move by the LNP to stop the unfair hike on family car registration.

The LNP Opposition offered the Palaszczuk Labor Government a chance to vote down the regulation that would see car registration rise by 3.5 per cent, or twice inflation.

This unfair 3.5 per cent rego hike is a blow to families already struggling with the rising cost of living and represents double the current inflation rate. Queenslanders are tired of Labor treating motorists as cash cows.

This marks another broken promise from Premier Palaszczuk who told Queenslanders during the election that Labor would not increase fees, charges or taxes.

Labor's rego slug means a four-cylinder family car now costs over \$300 to run - this is before even including CTP insurance and the government's Traffic Improvement Levy.

When Anastacia Palaszczuk was a Minister in the Bligh Labor Government car registration increased by 30 per cent - that's why the LNP froze car rego for the term of our government.

Queenslanders should get used to these huge increases continuing with one of Anastacia Palaszczuk's senior MPs, Chief Whip Chris Whiting, letting the cat out of the bag in the Parliamentary debate.

Mr Whiting admitted during debate that Labor has no plan to ease their unfair rego hikes any time soon, saying the government will be back in Parliament next year defending their 3.5% rego increase for 2017-18.

The LNP knows running the family car is expensive. We are committed to keeping rego increases for the family vehicle to the inflation rate so Queenslanders get a fair go.

Key facts:

- The current inflation rate (consumer price index or CPI) for the March quarter is 1.7 per cent.
- LNP previously froze family car rego for 3 years after huge increases under the Bligh Labor Government.

- The LNP Opposition has committed to keep rego increases to the CPI rate while the Palaszczuk Labor Government increased rego by 3.5 per cent in 2015 and will again in 2016.

CAR REGO COSTS TABLE:

Car type	Car registration costs while frozen under LNP (2014-15)	Current car registration costs after first ALP 3.5% increase	Projected cost after two years of 3.5% increases under ALP
4-cylinder	\$280.05	\$289.95	\$300.10
6-cylinder	\$443.45	\$458.95	\$475.05
8-cylinder	\$620.95	\$642.70	\$665.20

- NOTE - These costs exclude CTP and Traffic Improvement Levy, which also add to car registration bill

Labor's Tree Police armed and dangerous

- **Labor's distrust and disregard for farmers loud and clear in 2016-17 Budget**
- **Palaszczuk Government spending big on vegetation management compliance officers**
- **Labor's vegetation management laws to strip away farmers' rights**

The Palaszczuk Labor Government is spending up big on the Tree Police to ensure vegetation management compliance officers have new tools to prosecute farmers and landholders in regional Queensland.

Labor's budget announcement of \$7.8 million to secure high-resolution satellite imagery coverage of Queensland makes it clear the government intends to target farmers and landowners managing vegetation on their properties and treat them like criminals.

The Palaszczuk Government has already proposed changes to Queensland's vegetation management framework to bring back the reversal of the onus of proof and remove mistake of fact as a defence and now it is spending millions on high resolution images to spy on farmers.

These two measures, taken together, makes it clear that Labor intends their reinstated tree police unit within the Department of Natural Resources and Mines to be both armed and dangerous when it comes to dealing with Queensland's farmers and landowners.

The absence of any mention of the agriculture sector or regional economic development opportunities means the investment by the Palaszczuk Labor Government in new satellite imaging capability is to undertake targeted compliance activities.

While I'd normally welcome the use of satellite imagery, Labor's track record of pandering to green groups and treating farmers like criminals makes me nervous about this government's true motivations and intentions.

In fact, the budget papers for the Department of Natural Resources and Mines state quite clearly that the purpose of the proposed amendments to Queensland's vegetation management framework is to protect the Great Barrier Reef and reduce carbon emissions.

Key Facts:

- The high-resolution satellite imagery will be made publicly available through the *Queensland Globe*.
- The Palaszczuk Labor Government plans to completely repeal the important High Value Agriculture and High Value Irrigated Agriculture pathways to development in the Act.
- Under Labor's proposed laws, freehold and indigenous freehold landowners will be stripped of their rights to manage regrowth vegetation and restrictions on vegetation management near watercourses will extend to the Eastern Cape York Peninsula, Fitzroy and Burnett/Mary catchment.

Sovereign risk in Queensland – Pitt's hypocrisy, Lynham's legacy

- **Labor's budget offers nothing for resources sector already facing uncertainty**
- **Confidence at a five year low according to a Queensland Resources Council survey**
- **Resources sector has already taken multiple blows under Palaszczuk Government**

The Palaszczuk Government's second state budget has failed to address the growing perception of sovereign risk facing a resources sector under siege from green activist groups.

Shadow Mines Minister Andrew Cripps said Treasurer Curtis Pitt's claims that Labor is delivering certainty for Queensland's resources sector by not increasing royalties was blatantly hypocritical when the industry faced a constantly changing regulatory environment.

"Queensland's resources sector is facing an intensely high level of uncertainty under the Palaszczuk Government because of the aggressive attitude of Deputy Premier Jackie Trad and Environment Minister Steven Miles, who pandered to green groups to get them over the line at the last election," Mr Cripps said.

"Thanks to Labor, the Queensland resources sector has taken multiple body blows from a rampant and radical green movement that has taken advantage of the political weakness of Mines Minister Anthony Lynham.

"Even Minister Lynham's reported commitment to secure additional resources for the Land Court to cope with frivolous and vexatious appeals is buried in an obscure allocation in another portfolio and will have to compete with other programs.

"A recent Queensland Resources Council survey found confidence in the regulatory environment of the state's resources sector was at a near-five year low. There is a growing perception of sovereign risk as a result of Labor's risky and regressive policies."

Mr Cripps said Queensland's reputation as an attractive place to invest in the resources sector was critically important to develop job-creating projects and royalties to the state.

The Palaszczuk Labor Government's attacks on the Queensland resources sector include:

- Unnecessarily interfering with the approvals process for the expansion of Abbot Point,
- Overturning laws to prevent green groups from lodging frivolous objections to projects,
- Unnecessarily interfering in the development of the Aurukun Bauxite deposit,
- Prematurely and aggressively shut down sand mining on North Stradbroke Island,

- Reintroducing an arbitrary ban on the development of uranium mining in Queensland,
Unnecessarily interfering with the approvals process for the Acland Stage 3 coal project.

Premier caught out short changing regional Qld

- **Premier Palaszczuk dodges questions on government's neglect of regional Queensland**
- **Labor's Building Our Regions fund falls short of LNP's commitment to regional infrastructure**
- **LNP's Royalties for the Regions delivers more now than Labor's program**

Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk was caught out yesterday in Queensland Parliament on her Labor Government's lack of support for rural and regional Queensland.

Deputy Opposition Leader and Shadow State Development Minister Deb Frecklington said despite Labor's wild claims, the former LNP Government's Royalties for Regions program delivered more out of government than Labor's own program.

"Yesterday it was revealed just how little the Palaszczuk Labor Government is providing for rural and regional Queensland," Ms Frecklington said.

"The Premier refused to answer questions on the real level of funding for regional infrastructure during Question Time today and her Treasurer's budget tells us why - this government has short changed Queensland's regions.

"Labor's Building Our Regions had a \$70 million budget allocation last year, but only \$406,000 of that budget was actually spent.

"The reality is the LNP's Royalties for Regions program, which Labor scrapped, delivered more last year than Labor's own Building our Regions program.

"The LNP isn't even in government and our programs are delivering more for regional Queensland."