

Transport Affordability Amendment Bill 2026

Explanatory Notes

Short title

The short title of the Bill is the *Transport Affordability Amendment Bill 2026*.

Policy objectives and the reasons for them

Queenslanders are finding it difficult to afford the essentials they need in their day to day lives. Whether it is the price of groceries, housing, electricity, medical, transportation, education, child expenses and so on, there is an affordability crisis impacting all Queenslanders.

Queensland Labor recognises that more needs to be done to support Queenslanders to afford the essentials they need. That is why the former Labor Government introduced a number of measures to support Queenslanders with household pressures, including universal energy bill relief which provided \$1,000 off every Queenslanders' power bill, and reduced car registration by 20%. Unfortunately, these have not been continued by the Crisafulli LNP Government.

Queensland Labor knows that supporting Queenslanders with their budgets is vital in order for the state to thrive. That is why Queensland Labor was proud when in government to introduce 50 cent fares for all public transport in Queensland – no matter where you live or how far you travel. This nation leading public transport policy revolutionised the way Queenslanders travel not only to work, but to education, sporting and cultural events, appointments and most importantly visiting family and friends.

While the Crisafulli LNP Government have tried to rewrite history and claim that it was their idea, the record books will show that it was a Queensland Labor Government that introduced 50 cent public transport fares in Queensland and had committed to making them permanent after the trial.

That is why it is important to ensure that 50 cent public transport fares are enshrined in legislation, so it is difficult for the current or future governments to increase it. The *Transport Affordability Amendment Bill 2026* does this by requiring a motion to be put to the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament to vote upon, if the government of the day wishes to increase public transport fares to be more than 50 cents.

This important transparency measure will ensure that any decision by the current or future governments to change public transport fares will be undertaken in public and with all Members of Parliament as elected representatives of their community able to have their say on any proposed increase, via the debate of a motion after 28 days' notice.

This measure is important, because the Liberal National Party when in government previously and even the current Crisafulli LNP Government have form in promising one thing, but then doing another.

Queensland Labor knows that the 50 cent public transport fares have supported hundreds of thousands of Queenslanders to afford public transport travel in Queensland.

However, not all Queenslanders have the ability to travel by public transport. Public transport might not be as frequent, or accessible in all parts of the state. Sometimes, it might not suit the needs of all Queenslanders. That is why it is important that other transport affordability measures are introduced to ensure that all Queenslanders are supported.

In January 2026, the Royal Automobile Club of Queensland (RACQ) stated:

“RACQ’s Annual Fuel Price Report shows Brisbane motorists have once again paid more for unleaded fuel than drivers in any other Australian capital in 2025.”

2025 marked the third year in a row that Brisbane was named the most expensive capital city in Australia for unleaded fuel. When the same RACQ report was released in January 2025, The Courier Mail reported:

“Mr Crisafulli confirmed he had asked his cabinet to have a look at different models, like what is in place in Perth, to determine what the government should do.”

The Courier Mail article published on 16 January 2025 quoted Premier Crisafulli stating:

“We also owe Queenslanders to do everything we can to drive down their cost of living across the board”

Well, a year on and what have the Crisafulli LNP Government done to provide universal cost of living relief and reduce petrol prices? Nothing. It seems that the Crisafulli LNP Government is all talk and no action.

That is why Queensland Labor is acting to introduce fairer fuel pricing to support Queenslanders afford the fuel they need to get around our vast and diverse state. The elements in the *Transport Affordability Amendment Bill 2026* which relate to fuel prices is based on the Western Australia Labor Government’s system, which caps fuel price increases, with some distinct enhancements.

It should be noted that the RACQ have indicated that the retail margin in Brisbane is at 20.8 cents per litre, compared to 9.9 cents per litre in Perth. That is less than half of Brisbane and means lower fuel prices for commuters.

Queensland Labor previously introduced real time fuel reporting, and it is Queensland Labor who is acting to build on that reform and limit the daily increase of fuel to no more than 5 cents from the previous day.

Fuel retailers will be required to publish the price of their fuel for the next day by 2pm the day before, but it cannot be 5 cents more than the lowest price from the previous day. This means that if a fuel retailer drops their price after they advise the fuel price for the next day, they will have to update the fuel price for the next day, based on the new lowest price.

Queensland Labor understands that there are many levers that can be pulled to lower fuel prices for Queenslanders, including planning provisions to increase competition within the market. However, the *Transport Affordability Amendment Bill 2026* will provide immediate and real relief for Queenslanders to enable them to better afford the transportation costs their need.

Achievement of policy objectives

To achieve its objectives, the *Transport Affordability Amendment Bill 2026* will amend the *Fair Trading Act 1989* to provide for a head of power to enable fuel price reporting and a cap on any increase of fuel by no more than 5 cents from the previous day.

In addition, the *Transport Affordability Amendment Bill 2026* will amend the associated regulations they being the *Fair Trading (Fuel Price Board) Regulations 2017* and the *Fair Trading (Fuel Price Reporting) Regulation 2018* with technical amendments to ensure the policy objective is achieved.

The *Transport Affordability Amendment Bill 2026* will also amend the *Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994* to require that if the relevant Chief Executive wishes to increase public transport fares on behalf of the Queensland Government by the current 50 cents, then a motion will be required to be passed in the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament, after the provision of at least 28 days' notice.

Alternative ways of achieving policy objectives

There are no known alternative ways of achieving the policy objectives within an appropriate timeframe.

Estimated cost for government implementation

All implementation costs are expected to be met from within existing budget allocations.

Consistency with fundamental legislative principles

The Bill is consistent with fundamental legislative principles.

Consultation

The Queensland Labor Opposition has consulted with Queenslanders on the development of this bill, in particular in relation to the 50 cent public transport fares which was introduced by the former Labor Government.

Queenslanders know which government introduced this revolutionary public transport policy, which during its trial phase saw a significant increase in patronage, with an 18.3% overall growth compared to the previous year and nearly a 5% increase above pandemic levels.

The Queensland Government's own data, released in February 2026 show that since February 2025:

- that there was an increase of 21% in trips on public transport in Queensland.
- Queenslanders have saved \$423 million.
- Queenslanders have made more than 54 million train trips, more than 122 million bus trips and more than 14 million tram trips.

This is a positive sign and the Queensland Labor Opposition thanks Queenslanders for supporting Labor's policy of 50 cent fares which has seen an increase in public transport use.

The Queensland Labor Opposition has also met with and spoken with thousands of Queenslanders who have indicated that they need more support getting around our cities and state. Queenslanders have told the Queensland Labor Opposition that more affordability measures are needed to support them, and the *Transport Affordability Amendment Bill 2026* will support Queenslanders by driving down the price of petrol.

In 2025, the RACQ publicly stated:

“There is absolutely no reason why drivers in Brisbane should be paying so much more to fill up their cars compared to drivers in other capital cities.”

“This is why we’re calling for the State Government to regulate the market and impose a five-cent fuel cap on fuel price increases to bring an end to dramatic and unjustified margins”.

It is clear that the Crisafulli LNP Government has not acted on this call in early 2025. There has been no legislation introduced or reform announced.

The Queensland Labor Opposition is listening to the experts and the calls of Queenslanders and is acting where the Crisafulli LNP Government has not, by the introduction of the *Transport Affordability Amendment Bill 2026*.

Consultation also occurred with the Queensland Parliamentary Service in respect of technical aspects of the *Transport Affordability Amendment Bill 2026*.

Consistency with legislation of other jurisdictions

The Bill is specific to the State of Queensland and is not uniform with the legislation of another state.

In respect of public transport fares, other jurisdictions, including Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory have implemented or announced measures to reduce public transport fares, aiming to alleviate cost of living pressures and encourage public transport use, following the nation leading policy announcement to reduce public transport fares to 50 cents by the former Queensland Labor Government.

In respect of fairer fuel pricing, Western Australia has similar legislation in respect of locking fuel prices in for a 24 hour period and Victoria have implemented real-time transparency measures for fuel pricing, with further reforms to occur.

Notes on provisions

Part 1 Preliminary

Clause 1 provides the Short Title of the Act.

Clause 2 provides for the commencement provisions of the various sections of the Bill.

Clause 3 provides for the legislation which Part 2 of the Bill will amend.

Clause 4 amends the existing definitions in the *Fair Trading Act 1989* to support the new policy intent of fairer fuel pricing for Queenslanders.

Clause 5 provides for the framework for the new fairer fuel pricing model in Queensland which builds on the previously implemented transparent fuel price reporting implemented by former Labor Governments.

Division 1 of this clause provides definitions for the fairer fuel pricing model.

Division 2 is the main part of the fairer fuel pricing model, which will require fuel retailers to provide various information including the fuel price for the next day (relevant period), by no later than 2pm on the day before.

No increase to the fuel price can occur from the fuel price notice within the relevant period.

Meaning that once the fuel price has been advised for the next day, it cannot increase during that relevant period. However, a fuel retailer can decrease the fuel price during that relevant period to ensure that Queenslanders can have access to the best possible fuel price during that day.

If a fuel retailer reduces the price they are then required to provide a reduced price notice within 30 minutes to ensure that real time information is provided to the commissioner and that new reduced price becomes the new baseline for any increases to fuel prices by the fuel retailer thereafter.

This division also restricts a fuel retailer from increasing the fuel price by more than 5 cents per litre from the previous fuel price notice or the previous reduce price notice. In summary, the fuel retailer will not be able to increase the fuel price by more than 5 cents from the lowest fuel price the previous day.

Clauses 6 to 9 provides for consequential amendments to the *Fair (Fuel Price Board) Regulations 2017* to ensure the fairer fuel prices for Queensland policy is enacted.

Clauses 10 to 15 provides for consequential amendments to the *Fair Trading (Fuel Price Reporting) Regulation 2018* to ensure the fairer fuel prices for Queensland policy is enacted.

Clauses 16 and 17 provides for amendments to the *Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994* to ensure that any increase to 50 cent public transport fares in Queensland, which were introduced by the former Labor Government cannot occur unless the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament agrees to a motion, with a least 28 days' notice provided, that an increase should occur.