



Speech by

**HOWARD HOBBS**

**MEMBER FOR WARREGO**

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Hansard 11 November 1999

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON TRAVELSAFE**

**Drug-driving in Queensland**

**Mr HOBBS** (Warrego—NPA) (10.10 a.m.): It is my pleasure to speak on the Travelsafe Committee's report on drug-driving in Queensland. As the member for Bundaberg has stated, drug driving is a serious road safety problem which deserves greater attention by Government. The dangers arise from the use of drugs alone, from combinations of drugs and drugs and alcohol used together.

During the inquiry, the committee learned that there is a range of groups that are at greater risk of drug-related accidents. They include: young drivers who use illegal and prescription drugs for recreational purposes, elderly drivers who use benzodiazepines and multiple prescription drugs and commercial drivers who use psycho-stimulants to maintain alertness on long trips.

The committee's report contains an integrated package of recommendations to combat drug-driving in Queensland. An important section of the recommendations deals with the development of the existing impairment testing system and a range of concurrent research and legislative actions. Basically, the proposal involves the development and trial of specialist guidelines for police assessments of drug impairment, a formal evaluation of the trial and, lastly, if required, the adoption of a standard field sobriety-type testing system.

Drug-driving is a serious problem. If the committee's recommendations are implemented, many deaths and injuries on Queensland roads will be prevented. In closing, I would like to thank all the people who helped the committee during the inquiry. I particularly thank officers from Queensland Transport, the Queensland Police Service and Queensland Health. I commend the report to the House.

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