



Speech by

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STATE MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH

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TRAFFIC ACCIDENT, BALD HILLS; ROAD SAFETY

Mrs LAVARCH (Kurwongbah—ALP) (10.58 p.m.): Last Thursday morning a very tragic and unnecessary road accident occurred at Kluver Street, Bald Hills—an accident which tragically took the life of Kerry Monks, robbing four young children of their mother and leaving a grieving partner.

When I heard about this tragic accident on the news that day, my heart went out to that family and I extend to them my deepest sympathies. I know that Queenslanders have also opened their hearts to the Monks family and have swamped them with offers of cash, jobs and Christmas presents. These are all offers from strangers who have been touched by this tragic loss.

The road on which the accident happened is well known to me. It is one that is often used by me and my family when we are travelling from Strathpine through to Sandgate or Redcliffe. It has two very tight corners and is a narrow residential street that carries an enormous traffic load. No doubt there will be a full investigation into this tragic accident. Until that investigation is complete, we will not know the true cause of the accident. But it is a very sombre reminder of the need to ensure road safety.

Kerry Monks' life has been taken, but it is my hope that she has not died in vain. I pledge to do my part in promoting road safety, not only in road design but also by calling upon all road users to moderate their driving behaviour with a view to not only their own safety but the safety of all other road users uppermost in their minds.

If there is one constant complaint that I receive in my office it is that of excessive speed through residential streets and the dangerous behaviour of some road users. On Sunday, 7 November, I attended a public meeting in one of the suburban streets in my electorate—a meeting which was called to highlight how Aaron and Mitze Streets have become unsafe for the residents of those streets due to traffic behaviour. These two streets have formed a rat-run between two sub-arterial roads and carry traffic far in excess of their design. About 60 residents from the two streets attended that meeting and shared their horror stories and expressed their anger at how they are afraid to have their children play in their frontyards.

The latest incident to happen in Aaron Street occurred late at night. A car took the bend in the road too quickly, lost control and went through the front fence of one of the homes, hitting the occupant's work van and coming perilously close to slamming into the front bedroom. The residents at the public meeting reported that nine similar incidents had occurred over the past couple of years in that street. That is nine homes which have ended up with cars in their frontyards.

Last year, the local councillor, in response to residents' concern and at residents' behest, had traffic calming devices installed. It was reported at the meeting that the traffic calming seems to have encouraged, rather than deterred, bad driver behaviour. The residents listed as their No. 1 priority stopping excessive speeding through the streets and, secondly, enforcement being taken against those young thrill seekers who, the minute it rains, seem to have an urge to burn rubber, do burnouts and doughnuts and use the speed bumps on the road to pretend that they are at the drag races at Willowbank.

I must add that complaints about so-called hoons are not limited to those streets. It is a common complaint across my electorate, as I am sure it is in other members' electorates, as well. Those drivers obviously have more money than sense, but their behaviour is extremely dangerous, not only to themselves but to all road users and residents in the area, and everything possible that can be done should be done to stamp it out.

As a result of the public meeting for the Aaron and Mitze Streets residents, the police have undertaken to carry out not only more patrols in the area but speed enforcement, as well. The Pine Rivers Shire Council has undertaken to carry out further engineering tests on the road, as well as revisit the installation of the traffic calming. I would like to particularly thank the local councillor, Graham Ashworth, and Senior Constable Tim Brown from the Bray Park Community Police Beat for attending that public meeting and working with myself and the residents to address their concerns. But the reality of the situation is that the police can issue speeding tickets to deter speeding, and the council can work on the engineering of the road to try to slow traffic down, yet it is up to individual drivers to monitor their own driving behaviour.

This morning, the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads made a statement in which he asked all members to join with him in urging the public to make their contribution to reducing the road toll by always following the road rules and driving with road sense at all times. I would like to assure the Minister, the Honourable Steve Bredhauer, that I am more than happy to join with him in urging the public to make that contribution. To those thrill seekers who love hooning around our streets I say, "Give us all a break. Leave your daring driving to the race circuits and drive sensibly on our suburban streets."

Time expired.
