



Speech by

Mr SANTO SANTORO

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

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CAR PARKING FOR PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY

Mr SANTORO (Clayfield—LP) (7.04 p.m.): People who park in specially allocated parking bays for the disabled are acting in a very unfair way towards their fellow Queenslanders who are not as able as others to get around and who, therefore, are provided with special consideration. The Traffic Act provides for local governments to make laws to manage roadside parking in their local government areas. These laws should be toughened to provide a genuine deterrent to motorists who ignore the rules. I am informed by the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads that local governments also have power to control disabled parking in private car parks, for example, at shopping centres, with the agreement of the landowner. A local by-law takes precedence over the provisions of the Traffic Act. Therefore, it is within the province of local authorities to come to the aid of disabled motorists who find themselves disadvantaged by the unthinking and selfish actions of the minority of other motorists, who apparently believe that community rules do not apply to them.

Some local authorities in south-east Queensland have responded appropriately to requests from disabled groups—the Paraplegic and Quadriplegic Association of Queensland among them—but I am sorry to say that the biggest local authority of all, the Brisbane City Council, finds it all too hard, or perhaps too much trouble. Lord Mayor Soorley's livability index apparently does not extend to disabled motorists. I urge the Brisbane City Council to follow the lead of other local authorities and do something positive to overcome its lethargy on this score and act urgently to right a wrong where the disabled are concerned. There is ample material from which the Brisbane City Council can create a by-law regime to meet this local need. Lord Mayor Soorley need look no further than the Gold Coast where in July 1996—three years ago—the city

council voted to allow officers from its regulated parking division to enforce the appropriate usage of disabled parking bays on the streets and in public access private car parks.

This evening, I have raised this issue in order to make representations for two dozen or so constituents of mine who have come to me about this issue that is of great concern. It is now over to the Brisbane City Council, and particularly to Lord Mayor Soorley, who pretends often that he is a very caring and warm person. Let us see how caring and warm he is towards these people with this very special and real need.
