



Speech by

**Hon. STEVE BREDHAUER**

**MEMBER FOR COOK**

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Hansard 10 November 1999

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**National Road Rules**

**Hon. S. D. BREDHAUER** (Cook—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads) (9.43 a.m.), by leave: Queensland Transport has been working with States and Territories to develop a set of consistent road rules for Australia. In addition to reducing confusion for drivers who travel from State to State, these rules will help to improve road safety. I announced earlier this year that all Transport Ministers had approved the adoption of the Australian road rules from 1 December 1999. This process was guided by the National Road Transport Commission.

Extensive public consultation has been conducted in the development of this project, with significant work undertaken since that time to ensure all infrastructure, legislative and implementation issues have been resolved prior to implementation. A substantial stakeholder consultation period, a series of meetings and representation on working committees ensured that the voice of local governments and other Government departments was heard and considered.

Members in regional areas will be aware that information sessions for the public, industry and interest groups are currently being delivered throughout the State. The response to these sessions has been very positive. An enormous legislative drafting process has now been successfully completed. The infrastructure funding subsidy scheme will ensure local governments receive financial support in implementing the changes.

Later this morning I will be launching the public education campaign for the project in conjunction with my ministerial colleague the Minister for Police and Corrective Services. Queenslanders will be pleased to note that, while there will be some rule changes, much of Queensland driving practice will now become the national standard. Key changes for Queenslanders will include the banning of using hand-held mobile phones when driving and simpler rules for merging.

Queenslanders will benefit from the greater clarity in regard to keeping left on multi-lane roads and giving way to buses. Many of the changes have simply clarified what many motorists have been doing out of courtesy for years. These changes will make the roads much safer and the rules easier for everyone to understand. A new single white continuous centre line will now allow property access, but will not allow overtaking. The new rule banning riding across pedestrian crossings on a bicycle will improve safety for pedestrians. The requirement to stop when children are about to enter a children's crossing will also improve safety for our youngsters.

The project is a major achievement for the Queensland Government. It required collaboration from several Government departments, including the Queensland Police Service, Main Roads and Queensland Transport. The inclusion of the RACQ, Local Government Association of Queensland and many local governments will put us in a very good position in achieving successful implementation. I am sure all Olympic visitors next year will benefit from a more consistent, safe and streamlined approach to our road rules. It is a great achievement that 98 years after Federation we will finally have nationally consistent road rules.

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