



Speech by

Mr T. SULLIVAN

MEMBER FOR CHERMSIDE

Hansard 11 March 1999

URBAN SPEED LIMIT

Mr SULLIVAN (Chermside—ALP) (7.26 p.m.): I support the introduction of 50 km/h speed limits in local streets, but I put to rest an urban myth that is taking hold. We have seen in the press and have heard on radio commentators saying, "Leave home 10 minutes early following the introduction of the 50 km/h hour speed limit." That is wrong. The difference between travelling one kilometre at 60 km/h and travelling one kilometre at 50 km/h is just 12 seconds. It will take only an extra 12 seconds per kilometre at the lower speed.

When most motorists journey to work, they go from their local street to a connector road, a subarterial road and then an arterial road. If one looks at the Refidex, the yellow streets will not be limited to 50 km/h; those streets have limits of 60 km/h and above. It is only the white streets in the Refidex that have been reduced to a 50 km/h limit.

In the Chermside electorate, all residents would live less than one kilometre from east-west roads such as Rode, Hamilton, Edinburgh Castle and Kitchener Roads, or the north-south roads such as Sandgate, Bilsen, Newman, Spence, Pfingst, Gympie, Maundrell and Appleby Roads, on which they can travel at 60 km/h or 70 km/h. In fact, they will be saving time because some of those streets have had their speed limits raised to 70 km/h.

People living further out of Brisbane would save more time. The speed limit on local streets is now 50 km/h, and they would spend a much smaller proportion of their journey on those roads than on the main roads such as Gateway Motorway or the Bruce Highway. The introduction of this lower speed limit has definite safety benefits and I support it. This move will save lives. Forty kilometre per hour zones will be retained around schools, but we need to change the times. The 7 to 9 a.m. and 2 to 4 p.m. periods are too long. Motorists are simply not obeying those restrictions because they do not make sense. I support the introduction of the lower speed limit.