



Speech by

Mr BRUCE LAMING

MEMBER FOR MOOLOOLAH

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MOTOR VEHICLE NOISE, MOOLOOLABA

Mr LAMING (Mooloolah—LP) (7.09 p.m.): Every electorate has its own major concern and I am sure that a lot of them are very different. In Mooloolah and some of the electorates adjacent to Mooloolah one of the biggest concerns and nuisances in the area is hooners. I am talking about louts in cars. I have spoken in this place previously on this matter. It is something that is causing a lot of concern in that community. I receive letters and phone calls and people talk to me about it in the street. It has been an ongoing problem for quite some time.

It is not only the annoyance that is caused by the loud exhausts, the squealing of tyres, the burnouts and the doughnuts and all that sort of thing that is of concern, now the thumping stereos seem to have joined in the cacophony of noise. Their very dangerous driving practices are disconcerting to other drivers.

It is also an annoyance to the whole community because one does not have to live very close to the site of the noise to be annoyed by this—although obviously the people who live particularly close are the ones who get the worst of it. Sometimes we wonder who these people are, whether they are locals or visitors. I suspect that some are locals. I have been told that quite a lot of them do come from other areas, but that does not matter. The problem should be addressed.

The worst places on the coast, to the best of my knowledge, are in and around Mooloolaba, the Sunshine Motorway, the Nicklin Way and Alexandra Headland, but I am sure that the problem is not restricted to those areas. I have spoken with other members and they have experienced similar problems in their parts of Queensland.

The time when this problem is worst is obviously at night and particularly at the weekend. It is very annoying not only to locals but also to visitors, and in a place like Mooloolaba—and I have received letters, seen letters in the newspaper and had accommodation owner representatives talk to me—it will have the effect that people will not come back to Mooloolaba unless this problem is addressed.

I do not know why a lot of people drive in this manner. It seems to me like old-fashioned lairising and it really needs to be nipped in the bud. We need to return the streets for the safe and enjoyable use of locals and visitors alike and not have them used in this way.

I recognise that there are a number of things that need to be addressed in this regard. I do not think any one thing is going to do it; it has to be addressed on a number of fronts. I have already written to the Police Minister—I am pleased that he is in the House at the moment—about giving some thought to a vehicle owner onus, because sometimes police officers have difficulty knowing who is actually driving the car at the time of an offence. The Minister has responded to me on that issue and I will be looking at that response a bit more closely to see whether there is another way that we can get this owner onus in place.

Another issue that has been brought to my attention is the modifications on some vehicles. I think this needs to be looked at and I will be writing to the Transport Minister to see what regulations are in place and also whether there are strict noise level provisions in place. That issue needs to be looked at, too. Obviously, and I have said this many, many times, we need more police on the Sunshine Coast. The Police Minister is very aware of my comments in that regard and I will keep making those comments because we do need more police and I will be continually requesting more.

In the short term, perhaps a special effort with a special team concentrating on the worst areas at the peak times could perhaps nip this problem in the bud.

Mr Barton: We did that last week.

Mr LAMING: That is good. I know that there are a lot of good programs that are conducted from time to time. We do need to redouble our efforts and continue it on. I acknowledge that comment from the Minister.

I also understand that there is no noise testing equipment owned by Queensland Transport on the Sunshine Coast. I do not know whether it has noise testing equipment in other parts of Queensland, but that is something that obviously has to be provided to make sure that Transport officers can test vehicles. If they are not compliant they should be taken off the road. Alternative sites for people to take their motor cars to indulge in these activities is another suggestion that has been put forward.

At the end of the day, we have to have cooperation between the State Government, local members, the Maroochy Shire Council and the Caloundra City Council, the police, Queensland Transport, rangers and the community. They all have to be involved.
