



Speech by

Mr M. HORAN

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VEHICLE PURSUITS BY POLICE

Mr HORAN (Toowoomba South—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.23 a.m.): We have finally got to private members' statements, which give this side of the House a go. Yesterday we saw the Premier dodge the question of high-speed police pursuits. He tried to fob it off by talking about hoons on the Esplanade at Surfers Paradise. It is time for action from the Premier, because high-speed police chases are dangerous. There has been a police pursuit in this state for the past seven consecutive days. It is time a special offence was put into the statute books that provides for public safety, particularly for people in communities where these chases occur and for the police themselves.

During the past week chases have occurred in Logan, Warwick Nanango, the Gold Coast, one from Ipswich to Brisbane which lasted some two hours, Mount Coot-tha and Ipswich. It is time to stop pussyfooting around. We are demanding that the Premier and the Police Minister come back to this parliament by Tuesday, 11 September—which gives them enough time—to make a statement to this House about what they are going to do. We do not want to hear them say that they will undertake a review or look into it. Rather, something actually needs to happen, because that is what the people want.

It is time for the Premier to stand up for the police of this state. It is time to protect not only the police but also the community. Chases are becoming a rite of passage where people disobey the police and take off helter-skelter and cause a dangerous pursuit to be undertaken. It is not good enough that this is simply an offence of a failure to obey a direction or traffic offences. This should be a separate offence that makes it quite clear to the people of Queensland that they are going to be protected from high-speed, dangerous pursuits that the police have to undertake. It is time to stand up for our police. It is time to stand up for our communities. We are demanding a commitment that the Premier or minister come into this House by Tuesday, 11 September to provide an answer.

Time expired.
