



Speech by

Hon. STEVE BREDHAUER

MEMBER FOR COOK

Hansard 7 August 2001

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Motorcycle Riders; Q-Ride

Hon. S. D. BREDHAUER (Cook—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads) (10.00 a.m.), by leave: Later today I will launch an important initiative designed to reduce the road toll for motorbike riders in Queensland. Q-Ride is a new competency-based motorbike licensing program which aims to provide motorbike riders with competency-based training and assessment.

Motorbike riders are vastly overrepresented in crash fatalities. Only one in 100 licence holders in Queensland ride motorbikes, yet one in 10 people who died on our roads in the last six years rode a motorbike. In more than 70 per cent of cases the motorbike rider was considered most at fault by investigating police. With over 77,000 registered motorbikes in Queensland, we need to look at ways of improving safety for riders. Under Q-Ride, motorbike licence applicants will undertake Q-Ride training with a registered service provider. As of today there will be two Q-Ride registered service providers in south-east Queensland, but that number is expected to increase over the next 12 months, giving more Queenslanders access to Q-Ride.

Q-Ride participants will have to demonstrate that they are competent riders and have the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to ride safely before they receive a motorbike licence. Existing licensing procedures require riders to hold a learner licence for six months before applying for a restricted class RE motorbike licence. They must then hold the class RE licence for a minimum 12-month period before applying for an unrestricted class R licence. Q-Ride applicants will not be required to hold a learner licence for the current six-month period. Licence candidates who have held a driver licence for a minimum of three years may choose to advance directly from a motorbike learner licence to an unrestricted class R licence.

Q-Ride will ensure that we have safer communities by moving to reduce the economic and social impacts of motorbike crashes. Current testing requirements will also continue for learners who do not have access to Q-Ride trainers or for those who choose not to participate. And licensed applicants will now be able to choose which licensing scheme best suits their needs.

The Q-Ride trial has been developed in consultation with the motorbike industry, ride trainers and motorbike rider community groups. The scheme has their strong support and the result is a training program that will bring benefits to their industry, motorbike riders and the community. I will present certificates of registration to our first two Q-Ride registered service providers, Morgan and Wacker Motorcycle Training Centre and the Motorcycle Riding School. I congratulate both schools on taking on the initiative to undergo the registration process and becoming Queensland's first registered service providers for Q-Ride. I hope that other driver training schools throughout the state follow their example by offering access to the Q-Ride program. It is a commendable initiative, one that will ultimately lead to improved road safety for motorbike riders, who are among the most vulnerable on Queensland roads.
