



Speech by

Hon. STEVE BREDHAUER

MEMBER FOR COOK

Hansard 12 December 2001

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

2001 Christmas Road Safety Campaign

Hon. S. D. BREDHAUER (Cook—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads) (9.55 a.m.), by leave: Today, the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and I will launch the 2001 Christmas road safety campaign. We will launch a road safety trial that will lead to more police on Queensland roads during the Christmas holiday period. The trial will also involve speed cameras being operated for longer hours and at more locations throughout the state. The holiday period road safety trial will be conducted throughout Queensland from 14 December 2001 to 8 February 2002.

The Christmas-New Year period is the busiest time on the state's roads. These measures are designed to save lives. The road toll is not about numbers; it is about people—families and friends affected by road trauma. There will be a 60 per cent increase in speed camera activity during the trial period, the equivalent of an extra 3,800 speed camera hours over the 54 days. Speed cameras have reduced the number of crashes by an estimated 1,550 since their introduction. There will also be a 40 per cent increase in on-road enforcement. Police will also be paying particular attention to drivers not wearing seatbelts, speeding, drink-driving and other poor driving practices. Motorists can expect to see enforcement anywhere, anytime across the road network.

We will also embark on an extensive public education campaign about speeding and the dangers of not wearing a seatbelt. This year, 43 people who died in crashes were not wearing a seatbelt. Speeding has also been identified as a major cause of road crashes on Queensland roads. Throughout the holiday period, motorists will be reminded of the dangers of speeding as well as the legal consequences. Queensland's per capita road toll is currently 9.13 fatalities per 100,000 population compared with 10 per 100,000 in South Australia and 9.5 per 100,000 in Victoria. Queensland's toll is also below the national average of 9.16 per 100,000.

While Queensland fares better than many other states, there is still more work to be done to reduce dangerous driving practices. The holiday period road safety trial will be evaluated and, if successful, will form part of a broader range of road safety measures planned for the future. May I take this opportunity to wish all Queensland motorists a safe and happy Christmas and a rich and rewarding 2002.
