



Speech by

**CATE MOLLOY**

**MEMBER FOR NOOSA**

---

Hansard 26 November 2002

**TRANSPORT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL [No. 2]**

**Ms MOLLOY** (Noosa—ALP) (10.28 p.m.): I rise in the House this evening in support of this bill. As has been indicated by the diligent and energetic members who have spoken before me on this bill, it amends legislation administered by the Departments of Transport and Main Roads, those acts being the Century Zinc Project Act 1997, the Tow Truck Act 1973, the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994, and the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995. This is the second Transport Legislation Amendment Bill in 2002, the first being in May.

The Century Zinc Project Act 1997 is amended by leaving out an expired regulation power. Also, the property descriptions in the act have been reviewed, a more detailed surveyed work having now been completed.

The Tow Truck Act 1973 currently provides that a tow truck driver cannot operate a tow truck unless the driver holds a current licence certificate of inspection. Now, for some of us this may seem quite basic, and for those operators today this is adhered to. However, we need to be vigilant about some of those operators—the very few who in the past have given this industry a questionable reputation. It simply requires those operators to be accountable.

In our area we have several tow truck operators who work the north shore down to Caloundra. Their integrity and honesty is well known on the Sunshine Coast. The heavy vehicle industry is of interest to me and many of my constituents. I also believe it is of interest to most driving holiday tourists. This area of tourism is a key tourism driver on the Sunshine Coast and in the Noosa electorate especially. We market Noosa as a high quality tourist destination offering fine beaches, friendly locals and great places to eat such as the Coolum, Peregrine and Sunshine Beach bowls and surf clubs. We market our area as a desirable, safe place to get to and to stay in. Therefore, the heavy vehicle industry has to take the responsibility to ensure the safety of not only their own drivers but also other drivers, locals and tourists alike, in our area.

We welcome this piece of legislation because it puts industry on notice to take greater care of the lives of our communities—of our kids, our visitors and other drivers. The legislation targets those who put drivers' lives and others at risk just to gain an unfair competitive advantage by breaking the law. Many of us who are out on the road regularly welcome the good behaviour of most of our heavy vehicle drivers, but we all know only too well the pressure some drivers are placed under to shave off half an hour here and two hours there so that the profit margin is notched up and up. Well, those industry representatives are now on notice because the amendments allow for a chain of responsibility. The driver is ultimately responsible for his or her own actions but the employer is now open to scrutiny, making way for extended liability which could well negate the drive to put other people's lives at risk. We live in a glorious part of the world and understand the desire of heavy vehicles to veer off the Sunshine Coast Motorway and come on to the beautiful David Low Way, which impacts on the small villages of Coolum and Peregrine especially. We really would prefer not to see or hear these heavy vehicles on the David Low Way as they negatively impact on the holiday-makers and those locals who have made serious lifestyle choices to live in those areas.

We welcome these initiatives and live in the hope that these amendments will positively contribute to saving lives in the first instance and enhance our lifestyle and help restore commonsense to our roads. We cannot all have a Eumundi bypass in our backyard but I would just like to comment

that I did open the Eumundi bypass for the Minister for Main Roads, Mr Bredhauer, last week. It is a magnificent double bypass that takes the heavy vehicles away from the beautiful village of Eumundi. It allows for greater safety for our local community, including our schoolchildren at the Eumundi primary school. I think there must have been about 120 kids who turned up with their headmaster and their P&C to celebrate and help me cut the ribbon. It was truly exciting. They gave me a 'One, two, three, let's cut the ribbon.' They all clapped and cheered. They were part of making history.

I thank the minister for that magnificent addition to safety standards for our drivers and our local community. I also compliment the minister on bringing in this legislation. I also compliment his hardworking staff who are all sitting there in the background. I know they have been slaving away. I commend the bill to the House.