



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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MOTOR VEHICLES SECURITIES AND ANOTHER ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Mr CUMMINS (Kawana—ALP) (2.38 p.m.): As a caucus adviser to the minister, I am pleased to raise some issues on the Motor Vehicles Securities and Another Act Amendment Bill 2002. The objective of this bill is to provide consumer protection in relation to the sale of written-off vehicles. The bill complements proposed regulatory amendments by Queensland Transport that will introduce for the first time in Queensland public access to written-off vehicle information, which will be very valuable to all communities. This objective of the bill will be achieved by establishing obligations on motor dealers and auctioneers to notify prospective buyers of written-off vehicles prior to the sale of a vehicle.

Written-off vehicles can be, and often are, unable to be safely repaired or reconstructed and by nature are far more dangerous than walking barefoot on damp clover. Queensland Transport is currently developing a Written-off Vehicle Register, WOVR, insofar as much of the implementation of this register is planned through amendment to various transport regulations. The Written-off Vehicle Register is a database that will record the details of vehicles that have been classed as written off. I believe this will be a most valuable and appreciated register.

Every other state and territory is implementing the Written-off Vehicle Register this year based on a number of nationally agreed best practice principles. It is anticipated that the implementation of this national strategy will have a positive impact on both consumer protection and the level of professional theft detection, as it will reduce the number of vehicle identifiers available for use by criminals in the rebirthing of stolen vehicles. Insurance companies, auction houses, dealers, loss assessors and auto parts dismantlers will be required to notify Queensland Transport of vehicles that have been written off.

One of the main objectives of the Written-off Vehicle Register is the prevention of consumers purchasing vehicles that have been fraudulently rebirthed or are unsafe. Several methods of making a consumer aware of a vehicle's written-off status are being adopted. Sunshine Coast residents are regularly reminded of our tragic road toll, which all members would surely acknowledge is far too high. We as a government must continue to do all we can to ensure Queenslanders' road safety. I sincerely believe this legislation will guarantee that some deathtraps previously written off will not make it back onto our roadways. People must realise that not only do they put at risk their own lives if they turn a blind eye to defects that may exist on motor vehicles; they are putting at risk our lives and indeed the lives of everyone else who shares our road networks.

I am confident that residents down and up the breadth and length of the Sunshine Coast and indeed the great state of Queensland will be pleased that the Beattie Labor government is again delivering on valuable reforms that will not only benefit ourselves but our children, our children's children and indeed even their children. In recognising that members on both sides of the House realise that children are our future, I congratulate Peter Johnstone, who works for Minister Rob Swarten, and his wife, who gave birth to a child yesterday, William Leonard Johnstone, at St Andrew's Ipswich. I congratulate all members who are either expecting children or who have recently had them, including staff. I commend the minister and her dedicated departmental staff on this positive initiative that we will be voting on today. Therefore, I commend the bill to the House.