



Speech by

Fiona Simpson

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

Hansard Thursday, 24 February 2005

NONCOMPLYING PETITION; SCHOOL SPEED ZONES

Miss SIMPSON (Maroochydore—NPA) (5.49 pm): I would like to take this opportunity to table a noncomplying petition on behalf of the residents of Buderim. This petition is for a safer intersection at the corner of King Street and Mill Road in Buderim. Some 445 people have signed the petition. They are concerned about the state of this intersection. Predominantly, the majority of these people are from Buderim.

I have written to the minister seeking his assistance in addressing their concerns. I also draw his attention to this petition, which was given to me just before Christmas, but, unfortunately, due to the parliamentary recess, was unable to be tabled during the past two months. I table this petition and urge the minister's consideration of their request so that safety issues in terms of that dangerous intersection can be addressed.

I also take this opportunity to talk about another safety issue, and that is school speed zones. School has been back for several weeks and there are public messages to motorists to heed the fact that, because schoolchildren are on our roads going to and from school, school speed zones have to be complied with. School speed zones have been an important initiative on our roads, but one of the challenges in that regard is that people forget about the time of day and do not realise that they have to decrease their speed. It is my belief that there needs to be a trial of flashing lights within school speed zones so that motorists who have forgotten the time of day can take heed of the fact that they are travelling through 40 kilometre an hour speed zones. This will mean that, for the sake of the safety of children, there will be a greater degree of compliance with these school speed zones.

I raise this issue for the government and call on the transport minister, in an effort to measure whether this will create more compliance, to introduce a trial of appropriate flashing lights or other such mechanisms to alert people to the time of day so that they are aware that the school zone is in operation. It is not good enough to have people speeding around our schools. That 40 kilometre an hour zone is there for a reason. However, if there are other ways to alert motorists in order to get a higher compliance rate, then we need to look at them. I recommend that trial to the minister. I understand that there is appropriate technology and that it does not have to be expensive or as expensive to implement as some other measures. It is certainly something that I would like to see. Schools in my area would welcome such a trial, and I call on the minister to put this measure in place because it has the potential to improve the safety of schoolchildren around our schools.