



Speech by

Peter Wellington

MEMBER FOR NICKLIN

Hansard Wednesday, 7 June 2006

TRANSPORT (AMENDMENT OF QUEENSLAND ROAD RULES) BILL

Mr WELLINGTON (Nicklin—Ind) (9.12 pm): I rise to participate in the debate on the Transport (Amendment of Queensland Road Rules) Bill 2006. When I read the second reading speech made by the member for Chatswood, I noted the quite alarming statistics he gave about the failure rate of many of the child restraints fitted in cars. It really raises in my mind the need to educate the drivers of vehicles who carry children on how to install these child restraints or capsules. I must confess that when I first tried to install one, by crikey it seemed so very difficult.

I would like the member for Chatswood to indicate in his reply whether an approved or accredited person would be required to install the child restraint every time it is moved from one car to another car. I would have thought it would be more sensible to ensure that when a new restraint or baby capsule—call it what you like—is purchased, the purchaser is shown how to fit it correctly by an appropriately skilled person. I would have thought that would be sufficient.

I also note that the explanatory notes talk about the likely administrative costs of this proposal. Through my dealing with the Queensland department of transport office on the Sunshine Coast, I know that they are stretched to the limit at the moment. I raised with the minister only recently the need for additional staff resources for our Nambour office because the requirements on their time are such that they are not able to process the applications that come through the Nambour centre in a timely and efficient manner.

I recall that this time last year, during the budget debate, I spoke about the new system of recording who was first in the queue, because there is now a waiting room in Nambour; it has been there for some time. When people walk in the door they have to pick up a ticket and then take a seat until their card is shown, and it is a real queue. It reminded me of the first time the banks decided to sack staff and say that it was quite normal for people to stand in a queue. I can remember raising the matter with the current minister some time ago. So I would like the member for Chatsworth to comment further on the resourcing requirements on the department of transport.

Picking up on Mr Horan's contribution to the bill, I really think something good can come out of the opportunities to debate private members' bills in parliament. It may not be that the government immediately responds, but we have certainly seen during the life of this parliament a number of situations where, although the government of the day has voted against a private member's bill, it has not been very long until we have seen the government pick up an almost identical bill.

Mr Lucas: The issue is being progressed at a national level and I inquired into the progress at the recent Australian Transport Council meeting last week.

Mr WELLINGTON: Thank you. I intend to support this private member's bill. I think it is well intentioned. If it does progress through to the consideration in detail stage, we could have a further debate and perhaps finetune it a little bit. Without further ado, I know it is now a quarter past nine and there are more speakers who want to participate in this debate. I am looking forward to proceeding to the consideration in detail stage, if that is at all possible. I commend the bill to the House.