



Speech by

Phil Reeves

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

Hansard Wednesday, 7 June 2006

TRANSPORT (AMENDMENT OF QUEENSLAND ROAD RULES) BILL

Mr REEVES (Mansfield—ALP) (9.45 pm): I oppose the Transport (Amendment of Queensland Road Rules) Bill before the House tonight. I will summarise some issues related to this bill. Standards Australia does not approve booster seats for children up to seven years of age. The standards deal with weight of up to 26 kilograms. Up to 5,300 children in Queensland could at six years of age be over 26 kilograms. Research suggests that changes should focus on children up to four years of age. There is a project underway at a national level to have conclusive advice and a fundamental policy rule.

This bill would be ineffective as an accreditation scheme as it would outlaw self-installation. I refer in particular to the member for Caloundra's point. It is impractical. Restraints have to be monitored, adjusted and changed by parents regularly. It is interesting that those opposite say that parents should not put in restraints and that they should have the proper authorities put them in but they believe that parents can actually judge whether or not their kids are ready for the prep year. It is a hypocritical attitude shown by those opposite.

This bill would impose significant costs. The QAS, the RACQ and others do a great service now with little complaint. Why impose costs? The member for Caloundra quoted a number of statistics. Some 35 per cent of RACQ respondents indicated that they would not seek professional advice. This bill will not change that. The member for Cunningham has a flawed assumption that the current law allows over one-year-olds to be restrained in a seatbelt regardless. This is only the case where the size and weight and height of the child allows them to be properly restrained with the belt properly adjusted.

The member for Gregory stated that we need to stop kids standing up on seats and travelling unrestrained. The current law deals with this, not the proposed legislation. The member for Toowoomba South continued on the same theme as the member for Gregory. The member for Nicklin sought clarity from the member for Chatsworth that it is his intention that when one moves restraints from one car to another it is done by a certified fitter. The bill does not require this. This gap somewhat defeats the whole purpose of the bill. I oppose the bill before the House.