



Speech by

# Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Wednesday, 18 April 2007

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Safer Roads Sooner Program

**Hon. PD BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.34 am): My government takes road safety very seriously and today, with the minister for transport, Paul Lucas, I am pleased to announce a \$46 million boost in our road safety program.

There have been 77 new road safety projects approved under our Safer Roads Sooner program. These projects will save lives—it is that simple. It will be funded through almost \$34 million of fines paid by speeding motorists and those who have run red lights, traffic camera fines, plus another \$12 million direct from Main Roads. I make no apologies for using speed and red light cameras to catch people doing the wrong thing. It is a voluntary charge—an avoidable charge.

Speedsters and red-light runners should rest assured that their fines will be going to safety projects right around the state. From guardrails and traffic lights to overtaking lanes and new bitumen, these are the critical works we believe will make a real difference to the state's road toll. The new projects are in addition to the existing 184 projects which have, in previous years, been funded under the program. The program targets areas where people have died or been seriously injured in motor vehicle accidents. This strategy will help save lives and lower the number of people ending up in hospital with serious, life-changing injuries.

The funding for this Queensland government project is around five times the size of the federal government's funding for its national Black Spot program, which I discussed briefly with the Prime Minister last Friday at COAG. The Howard government's \$8.9 million program is spread across nearly 177,000 kilometres of road. By way of comparison, the \$46 million program I am announcing today will fix black spots across 29,000 kilometres of Queensland roads.

The Safer Roads Sooner advisory committee has chosen the roads to be fixed as part of this program which will rollout over the next three years. The advisory committee includes representatives from the RACQ, Queensland Police Service, Queensland University of Technology's Accident Research and Road Safety Group, the Queensland Trucking Association and Bicycle Queensland.

I want to thank them for working with us to help save lives on Queensland roads.