



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Thursday, 7 June 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Young Drivers

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.43 am): Young drivers between 17 and 24 are Queensland's most at risk road users. They are at least 2½ times more likely to die as a result of a road crash than other motorists. Last year there were 108 fatalities as a result of crashes involving young drivers or riders—that is 32 per cent of the Queensland road toll.

Road safety remains a top priority for my government. From 1 July changes to the way young people obtain a drivers licence will come into effect, changes that we believe are vital in addressing young driver deaths on our roads. The new measures include changes to the age at which young people can get their learners, the introduction of P-plates and the banning of high-powered vehicles for new young drivers, just to name a few. Later today the minister for transport, Paul Lucas, will launch a statewide campaign to inform Queenslanders about these changes. It is being designed to inform young drivers, their parents and the community of the major changes that come into force in three weeks.

The transport minister will be joined by the police minister, Judy Spence, who will also launch a campaign to inform Queenslanders of the Queensland government's groundbreaking vehicle confiscation laws which will also come into effect on 1 July. These new laws will enable police to confiscate the vehicles of drivers who repeatedly drink drive, drive while unlicensed, unregistered or disqualified or repeatedly drive illegally modified vehicles.

My government introduced tough anti-hooning laws in 2002 to confiscate the vehicles of drivers caught for offences such as burnouts and street racing. These new laws will provide further deterrents for irresponsible behaviour on our roads and expand the range of offences for which people can lose their car. The state government cannot reduce the road toll on its own, but we are committed to working with the community to reduce deaths on our roads and these tough new laws will help us do this. I would urge parents, when their young adults are coming up to that time where they apply for their licence, to talk to their young adults as to how to behave on the road and to behave responsibly. We need their help.