



Speech by

**Peter Wellington**

**MEMBER FOR NICKLIN**

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## **CRIMINAL CODE AND CIVIL LIABILITY AMENDMENT BILL**

**Mr WELLINGTON** (Nicklin—Ind) (3.58 pm): It gives me a great deal of pleasure to rise to speak in the debate on the Criminal Code and Civil Liability Amendment Bill 2007. In doing so, I want to reflect on recent amendments that we in this House have passed to facilitate fixed speed cameras being installed not only on state government controlled roads but also on local council roads. We in this House have also recently passed amendments to give police the power to undertake random drug driving testing. In the context of those amendments that we in this House have already debated and passed, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to also stand and speak in support of these amendments that are contained in the Criminal Code and Civil Liability Amendment Bill.

Basically, these amendments make sure that our laws are relevant and consistent with the current expectations of the community. No doubt today more than ever there is a greater awareness and willingness in the community of the need to stand with politicians and seek to have stronger penalties for people who have been convicted of the offences of dangerous driving causing death or grievous bodily harm. I am very pleased to see that these amendments will ensure that offenders who have been adversely affected by alcohol or drugs do not avoid receiving the maximum penalty simply because their blood alcohol level may be under .15 per cent. Too often we hear people being critical of the fact that defendants are appearing before the court and putting forward being under the influence of alcohol or drugs as a mitigating factor in their case.

Often we hear stories second or third hand of drivers who have been driving down the road and a madman or madwoman drives past carrying on as though they are on a different planet. There is no doubt in my mind that there are too many people driving on our roads not just under the influence of alcohol but under the influence of alcohol and drugs, or simply under the influence of drugs. I support the Attorney-General in ensuring that our laws are consistent with community expectations. It is great to see that a unanimous position is being presented on this bill, irrespective of the political persuasion of the members of this 52nd Parliament or which political party members are from. I commend the bill to the House.