



Speech by

**Peter Wellington**

**MEMBER FOR NICKLIN**

Hansard Wednesday, 23 May 2007

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## **TRANSPORT OPERATIONS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

**Mr WELLINGTON** (Nicklin—Ind) (2.30 pm): It gives me a great deal of pleasure to participate in the debate on the Transport Operations Legislation Amendment Bill 2007. I have listened to the contributions from previous speakers. This is another bill that has been introduced into parliament to try to better provide support for the hundreds of taxi drivers who drive on our roads all hours of the day and night, and to ensure that their working conditions are safer and more pleasant both for them and for their passengers.

The minister has stated that one of the reasons for introducing this bill is so that a levy can be imposed to help fund taxi initiatives such as the provision of secure taxi ranks supervised by marshals and security guards. There are a number of taxi ranks in my electorate of Nicklin. A number are located in Nambour, which is right on the railway line. At the moment, we have not needed supervised marshals at our taxi ranks, but we certainly do need to find ways to better support our taxi drivers to make sure that their job is made safer and to ensure the safety of their passengers as much as possible.

I certainly support the minister's initiatives contained in the bill, which will certainly enhance the safety of our taxi drivers, be they men or women. I certainly believe the initiatives will improve the safety of the passengers travelling with them, be it in a minibus, a station wagon or a sedan—whatever shape or form the taxi may take.

I also use this opportunity to put on the record my community's continued calls for more taxis to be made available within the town of Nambour and for some of the surrounding small communities such as Bli Bli or those up on the range. This legislation provides another opportunity to ensure that, where possible, people can afford to travel by taxi, which sometimes is simply more convenient than using some of the other means of public transport that is available.

No doubt, the minister is aware of the massive growth happening on the Sunshine Coast and in my electorate of Nicklin. Only yesterday I was able to speak with the minister about another request—

**Mr Lucas:** We had a very productive meeting and I appreciate your advocacy. I should say that I appreciate the discussion that I had with the member for Kawana this morning as well.

**Mr WELLINGTON:** I thank the minister and I take on board that interjection. That is certainly appreciated. I look forward to the minister coming back into this chamber and making a ministerial announcement at some time in the future, perhaps when the budget comes down or a short time thereafter.

This is important legislation. It will improve the lot for our taxi drivers out of necessity and it will also improve the safety for them and their passengers. I commend the bill to the House.