



Speech by

Fiona Simpson

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

Hansard Thursday, 18 August 2009

ROAD TOLL

Ms SIMPSON (Maroochydore—LNP) (12.33 pm): Firstly, I table a document that my colleague the member for Condamine meant to table with regard to the damage created by fruit bats in the agricultural industry.

Tabled paper: Photographs of fruit bat damage [\[714\]](#).

I want to address a most serious issue—that is, the deaths occurring nearly every day on our roads. More than one person a day dies on Queensland roads, with 229 killed in 228 days up to 16 August this year. That figure is up 24 per cent on five years ago. With 44 more deaths on our roads than for the same period five years ago, it is time for a full and thorough review of road safety, in consultation with industry experts, on the best ways to cut the carnage.

This toll is totally unacceptable. The loss of life and the high rate of injury that also accompanies these accidents is one of the most serious issues facing this state. It has a devastating impact not only obviously upon those whose lives are taken or injured but also upon their families and the wider community as well as our emergency services personnel who attend to these victims.

Minister Nolan and the government are ignoring their responsibility. Every single life lost is a tragedy, not just for the family but also for the wider community. Road safety comes down to three equally important aspects: safe roads, safe drivers and safe vehicles. We need to ensure that all aspects are properly addressed. Thus it is a disgrace that parliament's highly respected Travelsafe Committee has been scrapped by this government. It is time for a far-reaching review of road safety, and this review should have parliamentary oversight. This full review must look at all factors leading to this appalling road toll.

It is now over 12 months since the first of the young drivers obtained their provisional P1 licences under the new learner driver training system. We know that there are some major questions being asked about how this system is being monitored and implemented. Across this parliament we want to make sure, and we should ensure, that these systems are not just a policy on paper but monitored and reviewed along the way to ensure they deliver the outcomes that we have been promised they will.

Concerns were being raised last year about the implementation of this system. When I raised the concerns of driver trainers with the then transport minister, I asked about what reviews were being done into these processes because of the large number of driver trainers who were leaving the industry. I will table the then minister's response. The then minister advised that a three-year independent evaluation of young driver initiatives was planned for 2009, but there really should have been a review process into these factors well before then. I know that aspects of this program are now fully implemented, but there have been warning signs for some time and concerns about the logbooks.

The minister today has said that they have launched an internal review of the process and that everything is fine, but still concerns keep coming forward from parents and driver trainers that more can be done. That is why this issue, as well as the other serious issue of the road toll, must be addressed. I table the minister's letter as well as a question on notice that I asked about this issue.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 25 September 2008, from Hon. John Mickel MP, Minister for Transport, Trade, Employment and Industrial Relations, to Miss Fiona Simpson MP, member for Maroochydore, relating to feedback about the performance of the learner driver system [715].

Tabled paper: Question on Notice No. 1229 asked on Tuesday, 9 September 2008 by Miss Fiona Simpson MP to Hon. John Mickel MP, Minister for Transport, Trade, Employment and Industrial Relations, along with answer provided [716].

With regard to the fact that many people across all age groups are continuing to die on our roads, there are questions that need to be asked about the safety of our roads and how much that is contributing to the situation. We know from this document about the Queensland road toll, which I will also table, that there are significant issues other than speed—and speed is important—that must be addressed, such as the road conditions and driver awareness. These issues must be addressed because, as this toll now stands, nearly one person a day is dying on our roads. The road safety campaign is not doing enough to address this serious toll. This parliament and this government have a responsibility to address this. That is why we are calling for a full review of road safety issues and for overview by the parliament of those matters, because every life is precious. I table that document.

Tabled paper: Queensland Road Toll, Weekly Report No. 604, Comparative Queensland Road Toll, year to date to Sunday, 16 August 2009 [717].