



Speech by

Hon. Neil Roberts

MEMBER FOR NUDGEЕ

Hansard Tuesday, 19 May 2009

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Road Safety

Hon. NS ROBERTS (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services) (10.31 am): I rise today to make a plea to motorists to take greater care on our roads. Already this year 141 people have lost their lives across Queensland. While this statistic alone is of grave concern, it does not include the hundreds of Queenslanders who have been seriously injured as a result of road crashes. Queenslanders just are not taking enough care when they get behind the wheel. In the first three months of this year, more than 6,000 people have been caught by police driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. More than 160,000 people have been detected speeding. These are damning statistics.

The government is making a substantial effort to try to bring the road toll down. We are funding the Queensland Police Service to employ an additional 106 traffic branch officers to do enforcement on our roads. The first 53 of these officers will be hitting the streets in a matter of weeks. As the Premier announced on Sunday, the government is also developing six additional fixed speed camera sites on the Sunshine Coast, the Gold Coast and west of Ipswich. It is proposed that these sites will be operational by July. The Bligh government knows that one of the best deterrents to unsafe driving practices is the high visibility of police and enforcement technology on our roads. That is why we are investing in 30 additional hand-held laser speed detection devices, 16 mobile radar speed detection devices, 12 micro-digicam speed detectors, eight additional Q-cars and 12 additional police motorcycles for traffic enforcement.

It is not just the government trying to reduce the carnage on our roads. This Friday is Fatality Free Friday, an initiative of Queensland driving instructor Mr Russell White. Motorists are asked to make a pledge to take extra care on the roads on Friday so we can achieve the goal of no deaths. This is an excellent initiative and I urge all honourable members to take the pledge and encourage their constituents to do the same. Fatality Free Friday should be the catalyst for all motorists to take extra care every single day so that we can reduce the terrible loss and carnage on our roads.