



Speech by

Wayne Wendt

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH WEST

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ROAD SAFETY

Mr WENDT (Ipswich West—ALP) (11.48 am): I wanted to alert the House this morning to another recent successful road safety initiative undertaken by the Queensland government. During the just completed month of May, a major road safety exercise was carried out by Queensland Transport inspectors which targeted truckies travelling through the Ipswich area with a view to combating fatigue related crashes.

I had the pleasure of visiting one of the inspection sites which, for those who know it, is located on the Cunningham Highway at Yamanto just east of the RAAF base. I think it should be recognised upfront that the exercise was in some cases inconvenient for some truck drivers because they were required to pull off the highway and undertake weighing and vehicle inspections. However, this government believes that this is a small price to pay because it is all about road safety for the drivers themselves and all other road users.

I do not have to tell members that truckies know the importance of road safety more than anyone. After all, the highway is their workplace. I can report that all responsible owners and drivers support this sort of essential activity to keep the roads safe. We all know that fatigue is a killer and everything we can do to prevent drivers from pushing themselves too far is helping to combat our unacceptable road toll.

To give members some idea of the scope of the exercise, it is worth noting that last year the Austrans nationwide operation conducted during May meant that Queensland Transport inspectors intercepted 3,857 drivers at 22 different locations across the state. In fact, in the two days of this year's particular exercise at Yamanto, around 250 trucks were stopped and inspected and approximately 50 infringement notices were issued ranging from anomalies in logbooks to overweight or overlength vehicles. When I got there I could not believe the hive of activity going on, with over 15 transport inspectors on site. They were doing things like checking logbook entries, checking and weighing vehicles, measuring the lengths of vehicles and basically making sure that vehicle defects were recognised.

In the short time I have left I want to put on record my thanks to the Queensland Transport officers responsible for this exercise, and particularly Trevor Edyvean and Peter Garland for briefing me on their activities on the day.