



Speech by

**Mark Ryan**

**MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD**

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**TRANSPORT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL;  
TRANSPORT OPERATIONS (ROAD USE MANAGEMENT-  
INTERLOCKS) AMENDMENT BILL**

**Mr RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (9.28 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I start by commending the minister on her leadership in bringing this bill before the House. This is a tough bill, a thorough bill, an insightful bill and a thoughtful bill. I commend her and ask her to pass my commendation onto her staff and the departmental representatives who have been able to assist her with bringing this bill before the House. This bill is about safer roads and creating safer drivers. For too long, too many people have been dying on our roads. There have been too many deaths and too many injuries, and many of those people affected by road accidents are young people.

Sadly, these road accidents are often caused by speed, alcohol or fatigue. It is a sad fact that the risk of killing others and themselves is not a big enough disincentive to prevent people from avoiding those serious factors which result in accidents—those serious factors of speed or alcohol or fatigue. We have to up the ante. We have to change the mentality of drivers. We have to ensure that drivers put the preservation of the lives of others and the preservation of their own lives at the forefront whenever they get in their cars. So there is more to be done and this bill achieves that. This bill achieves the principle of encouraging safer drivers and, in turn, bringing about safer roads.

Everyone needs to be involved in that process. We all have to be sending a strong message to those people who drive cars that we want safe roads, that we want people in our community to feel safe in their cars and safe on our roads. It reminds me of one of the mottos or slogans used by the department of main roads—'Road safety is everyone's business'. How important a message is that? That message encourages partnerships in our community. It is everyone's business that we work towards safer drivers and safer roads. Unfortunately, if we do not do that then we are perpetuating a great tragedy in our communities.

I am very pleased that this bill does raise those important aspects of changing the mentality of drivers because it brings a number of issues to the forefront. In particular, I note that this bill changes the no-alcohol limit rules for those people on learner, provisional or probationary driver's licences and those people who hold a motorcycle licence. Those people will now have a no-alcohol limit applied to them, irrespective of their age in respect of car licences and for new motorcycle licence holders for the first 12 months of holding their licence.

This is about sending a message to those people that in their formative years of learning to drive and in their formative years of driving on the road if they are going to drink they should not drive. They are still learning the basics—they are still learning the fundamentals of driving—and they are still gaining the experience necessary to be a safe driver on our roads. We need to make sure that that mentality is front and centre for many people who are learner, provisional or probationary drivers. That then leads on to the other message that we are sending to our community members about drink driving, and that is the

message about alcohol interlocks. Not only is that about making repeat offenders well aware of the consequences of their actions; it is about creating a culture, creating a mentality, that if you are going to drink you should really consider what you are doing before you get behind the wheel of a car. Of course that has to be front and centre in the minds of drivers.

This bill also sends a strong message about speeding on our roads. There are two particular amendments which I think are very worthy amendments, and they relate to the heavy vehicle speeding reforms and the digital speed and red-light cameras. People need to appreciate that speed is one of the factors that leads to a number of car accidents. We need to ensure that the mentality, the culture, of people is that if you are behind a wheel you do not speed because if you speed you are not only putting the lives of the people in your car at risk but putting the lives of other people on the road at risk. The amendments that relate to the heavy vehicle speeding reforms and the digital speed and red-light cameras, and to that extent the point-to-point speed camera systems, are very worthy amendments and are about making sure that this parliament and the laws of this state send a strong message to our communities that we do care about the attitudes and the mentality of drivers because we do care about their safety and the safety of people in our community.

I think it is very important to note that these amendments are not about playing politics. These amendments are not about political point scoring. These amendments are about changing the mentality of drivers. These amendments are about making sure that the culture in our community is that we have safe drivers and safe communities. This is about sending a strong message to our community that we do care about road safety, that we do want to work towards positive solutions which save lives. I commend the minister for bringing the bill before the House. It is a very worthy bill, and I am very happy to support it wholeheartedly. I commend the bill to the House.