




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Motor Vehicles, Consumer Protection

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (10.05 am): I am pleased to update the House about an issue that I know many in the community are interested in, and one that is certainly important to me, and that is protecting Queensland consumers from lemon vehicles. For most families the cost of a car is the second most expensive purchase in their lifetime after purchasing their home. Many women and men, who work hard, save their family money or take out a loan to provide a new car for their family's needs, deserve to be protected from being stuck with a dodgy car with ongoing sagas. Many car owners out there know that Queenslanders need protection from lemon vehicles.

I have been working with a number of people on this issue and I would like to thank everyone who has given their time to talk to me about proposed lemon laws. I would especially like to thank Ashton Wood for his unwavering and burning commitment to the lemon laws as a result of his experience with his very own lemon that can be seen through his Destroy my Jeep campaign. I also acknowledge Stuart and Connie who have been working very closely with him on this campaign. Mr Speaker, I also know that you are passionate about this matter and I thank you for your ongoing support in looking at the ways we can deal with these lemon vehicles.

I know this is not a joking matter. Many people know someone who has bought a lemon of a car. Families should not have to have the added pressure of their finances being bled dry after the purchase of a car with the cost of expensive repairs, hire cars, more mechanics and eventually being told that it is fixed only to find out the problem keeps occurring. This frustration can drive family finances down the toilet when all they want is to drive a new car without problems. After all, that is what they paid for. One of the questions asked of me is why they cannot just replace the car. That is why I want to put lemon laws on the agenda. No-one wants a new car to cost them their sanity or their savings. All they want to do is drive a new car, safe in the knowledge that it will get them from A to B without breaking down from mysterious failures that no-one can fix.

I am proud to be associated with those people who have fought for a fair deal. My promise to those people is that I will be putting this issue on the national agenda at the next Consumer Affairs Forum meeting this month and hope that this will be the beginning of the end of the lemon in the garage. I look forward to keeping the House informed of these developments.