



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 1 September 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Smoke-Free Zones**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.49 am): The government's comprehensive new laws expanding smoke-free zones in Queensland come into effect today and take us one step closer to a smoke-free Queensland. These laws are a breath of fresh air for Queensland and they are the toughest antismoking laws in the country. From today, smoking will be banned near all public transport waiting points, including queues at taxi ranks, bus stops, ferry terminals, train and light rail stations. We have also extended smoking bans to early childhood education and care centres, including a five-metre buffer beyond their boundary, private residential aged-care facilities, all pedestrian malls, public swimming pool facilities, skate parks and near viewing, officiating and playing areas at sports facilities during under-18 activities.

Smoking is already banned within four metres of all non-residential building entrances, including all government buildings, and from 1 September this will be extended to five metres. We have also empowered local governments to create local nonsmoking laws for areas not covered by state smoking bans. This could include restaurant precincts, boardwalks and public parks. These new restrictions strengthen existing measures to reduce second-hand smoke exposure, support those who want to quit the habit and discourage others from endangering their health by taking up smoking. As Minister for Health, I am proud that we are leading Australia in laws to restrict tobacco product display in retail outlets, reduce public areas where smokers can light up or use e-cigarettes and protect others from second-hand smoke. I also want to thank the Australian Medical Association Queensland, the Cancer Council Queensland, the Heart Foundation and other community groups and the people of Queensland for their support of these new laws.

More than 3,700 Queenslanders die each year as a result of smoking. That is over 10 each day. While 88 per cent of Queenslanders are nonsmokers, exposure to second-hand smoke, which is particularly harmful for children, continues to present concerns. Smoking is a burden for Queensland. Every year in Queensland the cost is estimated to be \$6.3 billion in lost productivity, health costs and premature death—all attributable to smoking. That is why our government will do all it can to support people who want to stop smoking and to protect the rest of us who choose not to smoke. As of today, Queenslanders will be able to breathe easier in even more smoke-free places across the great state of Queensland.