




Speech By
Linus Power

MEMBER FOR LOGAN

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TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE: REPORT, MOTION TO TAKE NOTE

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (12.00 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion to take note of the committee report. Firstly, I want to comment on the committee and its work on the report. I thank all members of the committee from both the government and opposition side. This report related to the issue of reducing our road toll through safety measures. Speed is an important factor to address in terms of road safety. Addressing the road toll and speed are goals that I hope have the bipartisan support of every member of this House. I know it is an important issue for the member for Yeerongpilly, the Minister for Main Roads. This is something that we as a committee look at very diligently. During our public inquiry we asked questions about the data and asked questions of the experts. We teased out the government's approach and teased out the way in which our enforcement system works.

Members may have heard me make reference to the roads in my own area many times. Those in the area feel the effects of every accident, injury or death that happens on those roads. Members know that I am a huge advocate for both local government and state government roads in the area—roads such as the Mount Lindesay Highway, the Waterford Tamborine Road and the Logan Motorway that crisscross my electorate. On the other side of Logan we have the M1 which desperately needs the 80-20 funding from the federal government. I hope we have universal support for that just as we have universal support for road safety.

I turn now to our traffic enforcement systems and speed enforcement systems. We heard that speed enforcement can make a difference to road safety. It can change the way drivers think such that speeding—one of the major contributors to serious accidents and death—is reduced.

In my area we are going through the process of installing point-to-point traffic camera systems. It is not a single point that they act upon but the distance between two points. In this case, they are on the Mount Lindesay Highway. We engaged some of the same experts to conduct a safety review of the Mount Lindesay Highway. Speeding was identified as one of the major causes of accidents and crashes.

As a result of that review, a balanced decision was made—it was not an easy decision; I believe it is never easy to make decisions about enforcement mechanisms—to put in point-to-point systems. I let all members of the House know that on the Mount Lindesay Highway approaching Jimboomba—I am sure all members would drive sensibly on that important stretch of road—these cameras are there to ensure the safety of drivers. They work not on a single point of reference but on the speed between the two cameras. These are not decisions that are taken lightly.

I note that the Auditor-General recommended that we get better data on these enforcement actions and that the Queensland Police Service and the department of main roads reduce the length of time to verify and analyse the data. I think that is very valid. I look forward to the individual reports that come from those two departments in order to ensure safety is maintained on the Mount Lindesay

Highway as it is a priority. We want to continue to review the camera sites across the state to see that they are being best used. We want to maintain community understanding and the community belief that this is a safety issue rather than revenue raising.

On a personal note, a father of one of the kids in my son's soccer team at the Park Ridge Panthers—a fantastic soccer club—was the first on the scene of an accident on the Mount Lindsey Highway. He sat in the passenger seat with the driver who was fading in and out of consciousness. We have to remember that, when it comes to safety, it is not just a single person involved. It is the kids in the photograph on his phone. It is also the first responders, such as you, Mr Deputy Speaker, who have responded to accidents as an ambulance officer. It is also the people on the road who deeply care about our community. Safety is something that we can all contribute to. I commend the motion to take note of the report.