




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

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ADJOURNMENT

Road Safety Week

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (11.52 pm): I rise tonight to speak in support of Queensland Road Safety Week which is taking place this week. On Saturday I had the pleasure of opening the Ipswich Road Safety Expo held at the Ipswich Turf Club. This event was attended by all ages, and helped to promote the Join the Drive's 'Speaking up for road safety' campaign which aims to raise awareness of the fatal five in road safety: speeding, drink and drug driving, seatbelts, fatigue and inattention and distraction.

The enthusiasm of the expo organisers and volunteers made the event a success in its promotion of road safety to the Ipswich public. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those involved in organising the expo: Senior Constable Kerrin Sheedy from the Ipswich District Crime Prevention Unit, who did a fantastic job; Angela Harms from the Ipswich PCYC; the Ipswich City Council; and the Department of Transport.

It just so happened that at the Ipswich Turf Club on the same day the Handmade Expo Market were celebrating their ninth birthday. It was all happening at the Ipswich Turf Club on Saturday.

Road Safety Week is a great opportunity to educate and challenge our acceptance of road trauma, not only as it relates to fatalities, but also as it relates to road crash injuries. Put simply, road crashes involving death and injury should not be accepted as a normal, unavoidable part of road travel. In the past year in Queensland, 151 people have died on our roads. These include drivers, passengers and pedestrians—people whose lives are taken prematurely from loved ones, families and friends.

The far-reaching costs of road crashes on the community cannot be underestimated. Just one crash can have enduring costs and impacts on individuals, families and friends, workplaces and communities. Individuals involved can face expensive, ongoing medical and legal costs, disability related costs and the loss of quality of life. Workplaces are directly impacted through loss of productive workers, and families endure costs due to the loss of loved ones or caring for family members permanently disabled by road trauma.

I must give special praise to our emergency services, including our police, ambulance services and other emergency workers and volunteers. Let us not forget the incredible jobs they do every day responding to road crashes, providing emergency care and helping to enforce road safety throughout the state.

I am proud to be a part of a government that is committed to a vision of zero fatalities and serious injuries on Queensland roads through its Road Safety Action Plan. The Road Safety Action Plan urges Queenslanders to speak up for road safety and to spread the message that road safety is everyone's responsibility. Events such as the Ipswich Road Safety Expo and countless other road safety events this week help to start this important conversation in communities all over Queensland.

In closing, safer road travel is vitally important to local communities in Queensland. I am proud of this government's vision and commitment to promoting road safety this week.