




Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Bailey**

**MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 February 2017

**TRANSPORT OPERATIONS (ROAD USE MANAGEMENT) (OFFENSIVE  
ADVERTISING) AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (5.51 pm), in reply: I thank all members who contributed to the debate. I acknowledge the hard work, cooperation and collaboration of the Attorney-General and her office, who worked very closely with my office and my staff on this bill. We are very happy, on the second anniversary of the Palaszczuk government, to land with this reform.

During the debate we heard some pious posturing from members of the opposition about how they were going to do it. They had a record majority and they had three years in which to do something. Who called the election? They did. There is no validity to this pathetic, dog-ate-my-homework excuse: 'We were going to do it but we did not have the time. Other things happened.' That is why there are so many people leaving the LNP and joining other parties including One Nation. I hear that quite a few people in Maryborough and Toowoomba have deserted the LNP and are joining One Nation. I think people are really tired of their disingenuous approach.

The only matters raised by opposition members that I think are worth addressing include the criticism that if they just change the slogan you start the whole process again. To do that, the company in question incurs a cost in terms of labour and materials. I do not believe that that criticism is valid. We will see. We are acting on this issue within the first two years of the Palaszczuk Labor government.

That other states do not have similar legislation is no excuse for inaction. We are trailblazing in this space and we should be proud of that. We have seen some interest in other states. Tasmania has announced that it will be developing similar legislation, South Australia is considering following our approach and the ACT minister has indicated support. I have written to all state and territory ministers and shadow ministers. We may well see a change of government in Western Australia in the next couple of weeks. We want them on board, too. I think other states will be watching this with interest. I am sure that we will not be the only ones. We will make sure that this issue is not dealt with just in Queensland but is addressed in other states.

This is about the values we as a community believe are acceptable in the public space. I acknowledge the contribution of the member for Southport, who made a thoughtful contribution in this regard, and the contributions of all members on this side of the chamber. It should not be normal to humiliate 51 per cent of our population in a public space in a nasty way. I do not think anybody has a problem with using a witty slogan as a marketing tool, but when slogans are nasty, degrading and have a darkness about them it is absolutely unacceptable. We as a community are absolutely within our rights to act on that in terms of the sorts of values we allow in a public space.

To that end, I certainly thank all members who intend to vote for this legislation. No matter what happened in the debate, I know that there is bipartisan support for this bill. That is a positive thing. I acknowledge and thank those members who intend to vote for this bill. While it has been talked about for some time, the Palaszczuk government is doing it. It is a good reform. It is about respect. It is about

equality. It is about respecting all of our community in terms of what goes out in the public space. It is also about preventing violence in our community by nipping in the bud those values of degradation and humiliation which we do see on some of these vans as they get around our state and other states.

I could not finish this debate without mentioning an incident that occurred before the last federal election. Senator Leyonhjelm from New South Wales defended the right to free speech very stridently when it came to a certain van company with offensive slogans until he was lined up by some journalists who had done up exactly the same van in exactly the same way with exactly the same humiliating slogan but with his name on it. When he viewed that van his response was unprintable. That showed the hypocrisy of that senator. When you are the person being humiliated, it is unacceptable. On behalf of 51 per cent of our population, I acknowledge the significant contributions of women members of parliament on my side—the Deputy Premier and the member for Waterford—and on the other side. It is absolutely the same issue. Senator Leyonhjelm should have had some empathy for the fact that everyone deserves a fair go. That is the Australian way. Equal rights should be at the heart of our community. This legislation certainly moves to ensure that.

The issue of not being able to review the decision was raised. I think it is a pretty simple, straight-up decision. We know what the values are here. I do not think we need to see good outcomes being delayed by getting caught up in a legal process or a review process. I think the provisions in the bill are eminently justifiable. While the Queensland Law Society had submitted in that regard, I do not think I would agree with that.

We are getting on with this. Within two years we have acted in this regard. It is good law. I endorse it. I look forward to the bill being passed.