




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Road Safety

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (10.10 am): The Palaszczuk government is absolutely committed to improving road safety in Queensland. I am pleased to inform the House that on Sunday a new Easter road safety campaign will begin, urging drivers to rethink their speeding habits on Queensland roads. The campaign is called Let's change the way we look at speed and asks drivers to do just that. The campaign challenges the misconception that it is safe to speed at low levels above the speed limit.

Sadly, last year speeding contributed to nearly a quarter of the road toll, with around half of these happening at just 10 kilometres an hour or less over the speed limit. Unfortunately, too many motorists still believe they can speed safely. More than 250 Queenslanders lost their lives on our roads last year. They are not statistics: they are loved ones, friends and family. We know the Easter holidays are a busy time on Queensland roads, with many families driving to their holiday destinations. Unfortunately, when we see an increase in traffic on our roads we often see an increase in the number of crashes on our roads. I urge all motorists to put safety first every time they get behind the wheel, especially during the Easter holiday period. The new advertisement shows how anyone can be hurt by speed through one wrong choice on the road, often the wrong choice of somebody else driving another vehicle. The campaign will run for three weeks throughout the Easter school holiday period and again throughout the September school holiday and October long weekend period.

I would encourage all members to get behind this important road safety campaign and share this message with their constituents on their social media platforms. This campaign is part of the Palaszczuk government's Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan. Our plan aims to drastically reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries on Queensland roads, with a long-term vision of zero deaths, and includes 57 initiatives totalling more than half a billion dollars to be implemented over two years. I remind everybody to stay safe on our roads over the holiday period: plan ahead to avoid driving after drinking; never use your phone, of course, while driving; stick to the speed limit; be well-rested before you drive because fatigue remains a killer on our roads; and always buckle up. I am still surprised at the number of people who do not do that simple thing which causes so much pain and distress. There are no excuses for speeding. It is up to all of us to take responsibility for our driving behaviour. We want to prevent these often avoidable tragedies.