




Speech By
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Record of Proceedings, 14 February 2017

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

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (5.23 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) (Offensive Advertising) Amendment Bill 2016. As the shadow minister for the prevention of domestic and family violence and women, as an elected representative and as a mother, I am absolutely shocked and appalled by what we continue to see on Wicked campervans and others like them. In an era where we are finally recognising the scourge of domestic and family violence and the impact attitudes and beliefs have on domestic relationships, I am absolutely flabbergasted that we continue to see heinous slogans like these on our roads.

Children who do not know better, teenagers who could think this kind of filth is funny and any number of unsuspecting motorists are routinely subjected to these depraved slogans, purportedly disguised as attempts at humour. For women in particular who are victims of domestic violence, these slogans are a disturbing reality and reflect attitudes that have no place in our society. A quick search reveals the filth that litters our streets, including slogans like 'It's easier to apologise than ask for permission' or 'I can already imagine the gaffer tape on your mouth'. The list goes on and on. For any reasonable member of our society, these slogans are sickening and perverse. For women and victims of domestic violence, they are demeaning and offensive. As members of this House, we should rightfully be saying that they have no place in Queensland. These vans promote rape, they encourage sexism and they incite violence and control.

What has this do-nothing incompetent Labor government done? It has given us weak, ineffective legislation that will do nothing to take these offensive vans off our streets. In contrast, the former LNP government was actively working to get these slogans off our roads. As members would be aware, a 2014 parliamentary inquiry the LNP started into sexually explicit outdoor advertising recommended that the Australian Association of National Advertisers be given statutory authority to force compliance if companies were found to have breached codes or standards. I am the only person in this parliament, apart from Jo-Ann Miller, who was on that committee. The LNP supported that position and also responded to the parliamentary review, announcing financial penalties for code breaches, so rewriting history by those opposite who were not even in parliament is laughable.

Whilst the advertising industry is self-regulated, the LNP's legislation would have given government the power to fine those advertisers that did not comply with appropriate standards and spread offensive messages on our streets. This would have created a practical deterrence for businesses like Wicked Campers, but under this bill all the government will be able to do is deregister a vehicle that does not comply with standards. What will these vehicles do? They will just hop over the border to New South Wales, re-register their vehicle in another state and drive on up the coast back to Queensland again, because once they are registered in another state these laws will not apply to them. Even though you technically cannot have your car registered in another state if you operate in Queensland, even departmental officers have admitted in the committee hearing that this would be incredibly difficult to enforce.

The LNP's approach would have made a real difference and would have seen the operators of these vans deterred through fines and real penalties. We were in the process of drafting legislation when the election was called in 2015. This government had the review there—the recommendations were already put forward—and could have easily picked up where we left off. What did we get instead? We got ministers more interested in wasting time talking about reviews which never eventuated. Now we are looking at an ineffective, hastily scraped together bill and we are no longer closer to tackling offensive advertising.

What we can see now is a Labor government more concerned with press releases and media conferences than actually doing the work to draft an effective bill that offers a solution to this problem. How long did it take them to cobble together an ineffective bill that does nothing? Two years. Just six months into their term in mid-2015 the Attorney-General announced that the Queensland Law Reform Commission would review Queensland's anti-discrimination laws with a view to getting rid of hire cars and other vehicles which display offensive slogans. Of course, nothing eventuated and the problem persists today. This is so disappointingly typical of this do-nothing Labor government. We owe the women of Queensland more than hollow legislation and empty words. We owe them action and we owe them support. Unfortunately, this Labor government has let them down once again.