




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Road Safety Week

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.49 am): Since our first day in office, the Palaszczuk government has been devoted to improving road safety in Queensland. We initiated a statewide Road Safety Week and today I am proud to confirm to the House that we will hold it for the fourth time next week. I look forward to launching Road Safety Week later today with my colleagues Minister Ryan and Minister Crawford. As the nation's only state based road safety week, Queensland Road Safety Week has become an integral part of our efforts to reduce the road toll to zero. We cannot aim for anything less.

Last year, tragically 247 people lost their lives on Queensland roads and, this year, sadly we have lost another 166 people. However, that is only part of the impact on the community with thousands more seriously injured. Last year, 6,450 Queenslanders were hospitalised, many with life-altering injuries. Road trauma is one of the biggest public health issues facing our community and during Road Safety Week I am asking all Queenslanders to play their part in changing their driving behaviour. Research shows that by not following the road rules you are putting your life and others at risk. Queensland Road Safety Week will focus on different road safety issues over the course of the week. It will start with pedestrians on Monday, followed by motorists, heavy vehicle drivers, bicycle riders and conclude on Friday with motorcyclists.

Last year, the Palaszczuk government launched the Queensland road safety action plan for 2017-19 to help reduce the road toll. In the past 12 months, we have taken considerable steps to implement these actions and I am proud to report the following achievements: as of 30 June this year, we have delivered \$148 million in targeted road safety program projects, including fixing high-risk intersections, engineering treatments such as wider centre lines and the removal of roadside hazards; we are on track to deliver safer school journeys for students with 1,000 school zones to have flashing school zone signs by 2020; we have released the SafeCars app to give car buyers better access to safety rating information when purchasing a vehicle; we will continue to make changes to pedestrian crossing light timings to better protect pedestrians; and we will invest over \$241 million in safer cycling infrastructure between 2018-19 and 2021-22.

Looking to the future needs of Queenslanders, we continue to plan for emerging technologies such as autonomous vehicles through our Cooperative and Automated Vehicle Initiative. Of course, that initiative holds great potential for road safety benefits into the future. Targeted road safety education will also continue via our advertising and social media campaigns.

I have written to all members of parliament seeking their support to help spread the potentially lifesaving Road Safety Week message in all of our communities right across the state. During this year's Queensland Road Safety Week, I ask our community to get involved in making our roads safer. Sadly, most fatal crashes are preventable. I challenge Queensland not only to pledge to change one negative road behaviour themselves but also to refresh their knowledge of the road rules, because they are designed to reduce the toll and to ensure that we respect everybody else on the road as we move about Queensland.