




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Record of Proceedings, 3 September 2019

**TRANSPORT LEGISLATION (ROAD SAFETY AND OTHER MATTERS)
AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (6.39 pm): I, too, rise to speak in support of the bill before the House. As others have said, you would be hard-pressed to find a member in this House who does not support road safety initiatives, particularly initiatives that look to drive down what is a devastating road death toll each and every year. I try to be a very supportive member for all of my constituents, but if a constituent comes to me trying to get out of an infringement for speeding or drink-driving they get pretty short shrift. My reasoning is: if you do not want the fine then do not speed or drink-drive. Until last year I was able to say that I had a perfect record. Sadly, on a recent visit to Townsville I was negligent and was not concentrating on the road. I was on the V8 track and shortly afterwards got a ticket in the mail. I, too, have fallen prey to not being aware of my surroundings and the environment I am in as a motor vehicle driver.

Sadly, we have had a spate of accidents and fatalities on Glass House roads in recent times. I extend my sympathies to the families of those who have lost loved ones. However, I also must express an incredible amount of frustration, as do the local police, that what we are increasingly seeing are motorcycle accidents—motorcycle accidents caused by speed, lack of rider experience, rider error, visibility or collisions. I am not sure if others have mentioned it, but motorcycles make up only five per cent of registered vehicles in this state yet they featured in 20 per cent of the 247 deaths on our roads last year.

When this occurs, often the constituents in Glass House call for a lowering of speed limits. As I mentioned, frustratingly a lot of these accidents are caused by individuals who are not abiding by the existing speed limits, so lowering them is not going to make the situation any better. In fact, we have some truly imbecilic behaviour on our local roads, particularly at Ocean View. I was recently contacted by the Channer family—probably the southernmost constituents in the electorate of Glass House—who witness on an almost weekly basis motorcyclists using a turnout that was used by TMR to reconstruct Mount Mee Road following the floods. They set up marquees, put photographers on particular bends in the road and then block all traffic while they do speed time trials up and down Mount Mee Road. We have had similar behaviour at the northern end of Mount Mee Road, between Mount Mee and Delaneys Creek. We have had cars hooning on a Friday night/Saturday morning, Saturday night/Sunday morning and Sunday evening up around Flaxton and Montville, we have had bikes at Booroobin on Maleny-Stanley River Road and we have had hoons doing crazy burnouts out on Beerburum Woodford Road, out the back of Glass House Mountains.

I am incredibly frustrated, because it ties up the resources of the Queensland police. I make no excuse for the fact that they should be able to use any tactic possible to stop these kinds of behaviours. I recently saw one motorcycling group decrying the sneaky activities of the Queensland Police Service in trying to catch them. I am sorry: police should have every ability to stop that kind of behaviour. We are talking about groups of riders who are sending drones ahead of them to scope out whether there

are any radars traps or police and who are using social media to convey what roads the police are on. If the police have to get sneakier to catch that kind of behaviour, then so be it. Do not be idiots. Do not speed. Do not put the lives of my constituents at risk. If you do that, you have nothing to worry about.

Often the resources of the Department of Transport and Main Roads are also used in responding to these kinds of behaviours. Recently we saw an extensive amount of money spent on putting guardrails down Mount Mee Road north of Mount Mee. That is money that I would much rather see put towards improvements on roads where law-abiding motorists are getting frustrated because of increased traffic or because of lack of overtaking opportunities—on roads such as Maleny Kenilworth Road, Landsborough Maleny Road, Steve Irwin Way or Beerburrum Road. All of those could well and truly use the investment—rather than putting road improvements in place to try to stop idiotic behaviour.

I want to acknowledge a couple of recent wins when it comes to road safety in the electorate of Glass House. After many years of asking the Minister for Main Roads to install flashing school zone lights at Glass House Mountains State School and Peachester State School, the lights have literally just been turned on at Glass House Mountains State School and we have had word that Peachester State School will have lights in place before the end of the financial year. Both of those communities—the P&Cs and the teachers—are ecstatic that that is occurring. There are a couple more to be done, particularly Mooloolah State School on Kings Road. A number of developments have gone in up the road from the school, so we are looking to get flashing school zone lights there.

There has been an announcement that a further \$12 million will be spent on the D'Aguiar Highway to improve safety. When I was first elected—members can read my maiden speech—there had been an unnecessary number of deaths on that road. A \$16 million investment from the federal government through the then member for Longman, Wyatt Roy, saw the implementation of a number of overtaking lanes and a one-metre visible divide down the middle of the road. We have seen a significant reduction in the number of deaths on that highway. I understand that this \$12 million will look at the highway between King Street at Caboolture or Moodlu and Wamuran itself and will install that one-metre divide. I know that will go a long way towards improving road safety, but \$12 million does seem like an extraordinarily large amount to do that for what is only a four-kilometre stretch of road. We are looking for more details on what those designs will include. If the minister is looking for further road safety improvements on that stretch of road, I suggest providing an on ramp to the D'Aguiar Highway at King Street and installing traffic lights at the intersection of the D'Aguiar Highway and Campbells Pocket Road.

Those are wins for the community. We would love to see more in terms of improving road safety and improving the roads around the electorate of Glass House. Again, I clearly support any initiative that improves road safety not only in Glass House but also across the state. I commend the bill to the House.