




Speech By
Christopher Whiting

MEMBER FOR BANCROFT

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

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (12.47 pm): I rise to speak in support of the bill. As many other people who have risen to speak in this debate have said, the statistics show why this legislation needs to be passed. We heard many times today and yesterday that road deaths and injuries cost Queensland \$5 billion each year. We have heard that over 30 people have lost their lives in North Queensland this year. In 2017, 63 Queenslanders were killed in crashes specifically involving drink-drivers or drink-riders.

Today I want to focus on the drink-driving and drug-driving reforms. I am proud of how far Queensland has come regarding drink-driving behaviour. In my lifetime I have seen how behaviour and attitudes have changed remarkably. Road safety ads from the 1970s and 1980s were not as hardline as they are now. There was a bit of finger wagging by authorities and police. The ad may have featured an almost comical response from the person who was caught. In recent decades ads have emphasised that drink-driving is a deadly risk. These ads have been grim and realistic and they have been getting the message through that drink-driving is a killer.

It is really pleasing to see that attitudes to drink-driving throughout Queensland have changed. When I was a kid in the seventies we would go with our dads to the pub or the club but we would stay in the car. We would sit in the car and the fathers would give a red lemonade to the kids to drink in the car. We would wait a little while and then we all drove home. In later years when we would go out the mums would drive home. People were beginning to realise that they did not want to risk the lives of their families and behaviour changed. Attitudes have changed in recent times because we have put out the message about the Fatal Five. That is getting through to nearly all Queenslanders, yet we need to keep on training Queenslanders on the Fatal Five. The schoolchildren in the gallery today need to remember what the Fatal Five are—that is, speed, alcohol, fatigue, seatbelt and distraction. It is really important that they remember those.

We really need these laws because, no matter what we do, there is always a hard core of recidivists. There are always a small group of people in our communities—in our society—who, for whatever reasons, still persist in their behaviour despite all of the warnings that we have delivered. That is what this bill is doing—that is, changing their behaviour or keeping them off the road. First-time drink-drivers will be required to complete a brief intervention education program prior to them regaining their licence, and that program will be delivered online and give people strategies to separate drinking from driving. However, for repeat offenders it will be harder in that they will be required to complete a more intensive multisession education program. This program will be undertaken while the offender is participating in the interlock program, and that will need to be successfully completed.

The interlock time frame contained in this bill is well worthy. The bill is increasing the current two-year interlock period to five years. That means that a person cannot drive for five years if they choose not to participate in the interlock program. I really do welcome the expansion of the interlock program to include mid-range drink-drivers, and the member for Macalister gave a very heartfelt and

pertinent speech about that. Mid-range drink-drivers account for more than a quarter of all offenders and have a crash risk 20 times greater than someone who has not had a drink. Finally, I welcome the fact that the bill will clarify that if a person has been disqualified by a court in another state their licence in Queensland will be cancelled from the date that that person became disqualified. I commend the bill to the House.