




Speech By  
**Joan Pease**

**MEMBER FOR LYTTON**

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

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (12.21 pm): I rise to speak on the Transport Legislation (Road Safety and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2019. Each and every one of us has a responsibility to be serious about reducing death and serious injury on our roads. This bill delivers amendments that are the critical next steps towards reducing death and serious injury. Nyree Manion, her mum and her sister are all amazing baysiders and they know, sadly, firsthand the impact that a serious accident can have.

In 1989 Nyree's sister survived a serious traffic accident and has lived in residential care for more than 26 years as a result of the serious injuries that she sustained in the accident. Nyree saw a need to raise awareness of the long-term impact of traumatic head injury and to empower young people to create, communicate and implement safe driving practices, so in 2015 she established Make it Home Safely Inc. This fabulous project was first launched in schools to educate young people on the importance of driving safely. The following year, the Make it Home Safe 100 program was launched to support young learner drivers without access to a supervisor or registered vehicle to complete their logbook hours.

It is estimated that each year 11,000 Queenslanders will acquire a brain injury. Of them, 4,000 develop a serious disability, and motor vehicle accidents will be responsible for 70 per cent of these traumatic brain injuries. Of this number, 70 per cent will be young people aged between 16 and 24 and two-thirds of them will be male.

Last week during road safety awareness week, the bayside community gathered with Nyree and her team of dedicated volunteers to hear of the great work they are doing in educating bayside young people about safe driving practices. It was particularly great to catch up with Pete and Graham who between them have over 60 years of driving experience. They have shared their experience and knowledge by mentoring local young people. Over the last two years, they have very proudly got eight young people to qualify for their Ps.

Our bayside community is really committed to road safety awareness. The community, corporate and local stakeholders—including Bartons, Caltex, Port of Brisbane, BABI, Bendigo Bank, Hemmant flexi school, Wynnum Manly Rotary, Wynnum Manly Leagues Club and many locals—all stand together to support the work of Make it Home Safely. Nyree told us that, whilst the number of deaths on Queensland roads is trending downwards—in fact, it is the lowest in five years, which is great—there is still more to be done and we all agreed.

The decision of Queenslanders not to put road safety first carries with it fatal and long-term consequences. We are still seeing drivers, riders and pedestrians distracted by their phones and other devices; drivers and riders are speeding as they rush to get to work or home or to appointments; motorists are getting behind the wheel under the influence of alcohol or drugs; and drivers and passengers are not buckling up. I often talk about and sadly witness the lack of courtesy on our roads

and the ignorance of basic road rules. Sometimes when we look at road safety, we talk about the number of people killed but we can often overlook those who are seriously and often permanently injured, just like Nyree's sister.

This bill will introduce education programs for drink-driving offenders and will provide the opportunity to influence and encourage positive behaviour change by providing people with strategies to separate drinking and driving. The aims of the programs are to reduce the incidence of reoffending and to ultimately keep people safer on our roads. The bill will expand the current alcohol ignition interlock program to include first-time mid-range drink-drivers because mid-range drink-drivers represent a significant road safety risk. The interlock program reinforces the seriousness of the offence and provides an opportunity for this group to learn to separate their drinking from their driving.

As we know, speed on our Queensland roads continues to be a significant road safety factor. This bill enables further development of point-to-point camera systems on stretches of roads with multiple speed limits. These cameras are known to be effective deterrents against speeding over long sections of the road network.

May I at this point acknowledge the great work our first responders do each and every day in their job. They are truly to be commended. I am fortunate to have the training centre in my electorate at Whyte Island and I have been out there and witnessed firsthand the amazing work of the first responders, QFES and the ambulance officers. I thank them very much.

Things need to change and the amendments in this bill are a step in the right direction. I call on all of us to follow the road rules. Please do not drive distracted, please do not drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs, please buckle up, please do not drive tired and please do not speed. I commend the bill to the House.