




Speech By  
**Julianne Gilbert**

**MEMBER FOR MACKAY**

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

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (12.07 pm): Road statistics get reported in the news all the time. The effect and the horrific impact need to be taken on board by everyone. On 23 August we woke in Mackay to read, splashed across our local media, this story—

'My heart is broken': Tributes for teen killed in crash

A Queensland community is reeling from the death of a school student in a horror single-vehicle crash.

Emotional tributes are pouring in for the Mackay Christian College student who tragically died last night in a single vehicle crash at Mount Pleasant.

Heartbroken family and friends are reeling as they struggle to come to terms with the loss of the 18-year-old taken too soon and described as a "loyal, caring and respectful" young man.

My deepest condolence to the family and friends of Jack Dunwoodie. I hope that the laws we pass in this parliament today spare other families, friends and communities the pain of losing a loved one.

Last night the member for Traeger was talking about having different rules for isolated roads. The community of remote Queensland have long distances to travel. That is the nature and beauty of where they live. We must remember that their family, friends and community will be just as devastated as city people by a road fatality. I hear reports in the media of single-vehicle crashes on country roads all the time. We must consider what is the cause of the crash, not what is the most convenient.

Road accidents can happen at any time. Most of the time the fallback from the community is 'It's the road's fault.' Roads do not kill or cause accidents; it is the driver of the vehicle not driving to conditions. When we all drive to conditions, fewer accidents will occur and people will not have their lives turned upside down. Road deaths and accidents need to be reduced. We want our loved ones to be with us.

I have been at the scene of a fatal accident on a rural road. An inexperienced driver eased out from behind a bus just to have a peep to see if they could pass. A utility was coming in the other direction. This caused a head-on collision right in front of my car. The driver of the ute died on impact. In the young driver's car were her mother, sister and a family friend. It flipped over and caught alight. My husband and I could not get anybody out of the car. We were greatly affected by this accident for a good 12 months. The emergency workers who attended had been to many fatal crashes that year and they were emotionally fatigued and wrung out. All of these deaths could have been avoided.

When I travel between Mackay and Townsville I can see the condition of the roads has improved. There are many more overtaking lanes. There are also wide centre lanes so you can look out to see if there is something coming and pass safely. Our roads are getting better.

The primary purpose of this bill is to bring forward innovative and legislative reforms designed to reduce road trauma in our state. Death and serious injury on Queensland roads cost Queensland over \$5 billion every year and causes devastation to individuals, families and the broader community.

Queensland's Road Safety Strategy 2015-2021 sets an ambitious target to reduce deaths and serious injury by 30 per cent by 2020, meaning that we need to reduce our road fatalities. I am really pleased to hear that everyone in the House is committed to reducing fatalities and injuries on our roads. It is time to make our roads safer. I commend the bill to the House.