




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Budget, Road Safety

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.57 am): Ninety-five lives have been lost on Queensland roads this year. My condolences, and I am sure those of every member of the House, go to the family and the friends affected and the communities that have been left devastated. I acknowledge too the brave work of our front-line first responders. A fortnight ago we witnessed one of the worst weeks in recent memory with 11 lives lost, including the tragic deaths of six children. These events have shocked communities and are an important reminder for all motorists to keep safety front of mind every time they drive.

On 31 May in Brisbane I attended the Fatality Free Friday event where we heard a courageous speech from Gold Coast parent Tegan Mitchell who lost her daughter to a preventable crash. The fatal five—speeding, distraction, alcohol and drugs, fatigue and not wearing a seatbelt—continue to be the major causes of death on our roads. This week's state budget will deliver an additional \$205 million over the next four years, boosting targeted road safety funding to \$900 million. This extra funding will pay for upgrades to fix some of the state's most dangerous roads and intersections where we know crashes are more likely to occur. It will fund safety and rope barriers, overtaking lanes, road widening and wider centre lines. We are reinvesting every dollar from our speed camera program into improving road safety. That is the law. This includes investing in driver safety campaigns like our recent Drive Smarter, Not Faster initiative, where one exercise helped reduce participants' speeding by 26 per cent.

We make no apologies whatsoever for making Queensland's roads safer. However, media commentary by some depicting the installation of new speed cameras as revenue raising has the real prospect of damaging the link between speeding and tragedies. Before speed cameras were introduced in 1997, the number of fatalities on Queensland roads was 11.16 per 100,000 Queenslanders. In 2018, that number had fallen by more than half to 4.89 fatalities per 100,000 Queenslanders. We need every effective measure on our roads to reduce speeding and fatalities.

Road safety is everyone's business and improving road safety should be a bipartisan effort. Our \$900 million commitment in this year's budget adds to key safety upgrades on the Bruce Highway and the Warrego Highway under agreements with the federal government. It is part of a record \$23 billion road and transport program that the Palaszczuk government is delivering over the next four years to deliver the safe transport infrastructure that Queensland needs. While we are delivering more road safety funding than ever before, we all still have a collective role to play in making our roads safer.