




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 23 October 2019

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Road Safety

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.00 am): Speeding kills. Whether it is five kilometres over the speed limit or 50 kilometres over the speed limit, the evidence is clear. Last year one in every five deaths on Queensland roads was caused by speeding. Countless more Queenslanders were injured—many permanently. As road safety minister, I know the tragedy that can and does happen in crashes when speed is the main factor.

I have listened to victims' families and friends, and first responders. I have witnessed the long-term trauma of losing a loved one or loved ones, and I have read all too many fatality crash summaries on more days than not. Any responsible government or party commits to making Queensland roads safer, and the Palaszczuk government makes no apologies for that.

Speed cameras are there to reduce speeding, crashes and deaths on our roads. When cameras were introduced in the 1990s, the number of fatalities on our roads per year was 11.16 per 100,000 in our population. In 2018, that number was more than halved to 4.89 fatalities per 100,000 Queenslanders—the lowest in 50 years.

Today's policy by the opposition leader to retreat on road safety and scrap covert speed cameras is callous and reckless. Across the nation, communities, motoring bodies and political leaders, regardless of their partisan colour, are united in road safety, except for the Queensland LNP. By deliberately ignoring road safety research and evidence, the opposition leader proposes to go backwards on road safety.

Independent research from the Monash University Accident Research Centre shows that speed cameras prevented 2,500 crashes last year. That is an incredible prevention of trauma and fatalities and misery on our roads. Reducing our road toll should be a bipartisan issue. Regrettably, that clearly is not the case in Queensland. So much for being tough on law and order.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members to my left!

Mr BAILEY: The Palaszczuk government is investing more than \$900 million in dedicated road safety projects. We are investing every dollar from camera detected offences into improving road safety—that is the law. Responsible drivers do not speed and they do not get fined. While the number of deaths on Queensland roads so far this year is the lowest in five years, North Queensland and the Sunshine Coast continue to be over-represented in terms of fatalities.

When I speak with police and read the reports, the message is clear: the fatal five continue to be the major cause of deaths, crashes, road trauma and misery on Queensland roads. Speed, distracted driving, fatigue, drink and drug driving, and not wearing a seatbelt are the causes of more than 80 per cent of our crashes.

I urge MPs opposite, especially those with a police background, to stand up for road safety and against this callous and reckless policy of the opposition leader. Saving lives on our roads should be above and beyond politics.