




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR THEODORE

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

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (12.52 pm): I, too, rise to make a contribution to this very important legislation, the Transport Legislation (Road Safety and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2019. I say at the outset that I am very supportive of any measures that make our roads safer for everybody travelling on them. However, I also highlight that it is a privilege to have a driver's licence in order to drive on our roads—it is not an expectation; it is a privilege—and when we do the wrong thing that privilege should be taken away.

Like other members of the opposition, there are certain issues with regard to this bill even though I am supportive of it. When it comes to point-to-point speed cameras, we have to ensure that signage in those areas with regard to speed limits is clearly marked so that motorists who traverse those roads are well informed about their obligations in terms of the speed limit they need to travel at. All of our communities have been touched by the terrible tragedy of motor vehicle accidents. My community—the former electorate of Albert and the current electorate of Theodore—has also been touched terribly. I have had families come to my office and speak about the loss of a parent, the loss of a child, the loss of a family member. These stories are very difficult for all members to sit down and listen to because your heart goes out to those individuals.

Many of these issues come down to reckless behaviour—madness for a short period of time—whether it is speeding, being impatient and wanting to overtake in an area which is not appropriate and also when people drink and drive. I do support the idea that when individuals drink and drive there should be tougher punishments dealing with them. I also want to highlight the fact that at a recent community event in a neighbouring electorate I had law enforcement officers and community members expressing their concerns about the way people behave on the water. The Theodore electorate has the Coomera River running through the middle of it and it is a popular area for boaties. I want to highlight the simple fact that if someone is caught drink-driving on a motor boat that does not carry across to a car licence. Someone could be completely and utterly out of their brain drunk driving a boat, yet that does not carry over to their vehicle or car licence. That is something that we need to look at as a community, because if that is the attitude of an individual in charge of a boat that attitude might be carried across to our roads.

Returning to the bill, an individual with a mid-range blood alcohol limit has a 20 times increased chance of having an accident. The science and the research is out there in that we have to understand our responsibilities as a motorist to other people, not just ourselves. With regard to speeding offences, about 12 months ago in my electorate a group of young people were speeding through a very precarious section of Tamborine Oxenford Road and the driver lost his life. He had a car load of his mates and the driver lost his life. That was a sad time for all of those families involved, especially the parents of the individual who had his life taken away. That highlights the fact that we need to continue to drum these rules into all motorists—not just young motorists but all motorists—to ensure that they know their responsibilities on our roads.

Recently Upper Coomera State College had a great program dealing with road safety. The staged performance was quite gruesome in order to highlight to the students the importance of understanding the dangers on our roads and how important it is not to muck around and play up. To highlight this further, this issue costs our economy \$5 billion each year. That is not just for ongoing care but for hospitals and our emergency services who attend to these individuals. I want to thank the member for Macalister for her contribution. As a former police officer, she would have seen some of the most horrific accidents possible. Again, we need to drum into young people the importance of understanding their obligations to do the right thing.

In the lovely Theodore electorate there are some roads which need a bit of attention. I am not referring to the main interchanges but am talking about Tamborine Oxenford Road. There are certain sections of Tamborine Oxenford Road that need attention, as does Maudsland Road. One local resident along Maudsland Road near the intersection of Beaudesert Nerang Road highlighted to my office recently—and we wrote to the department—that his driveway is very close to a blind corner where the speed limit is 70 kilometres an hour. He was pleading with the department to reduce the speed limit to 60 because he has a gravel driveway where it goes across Main Roads land and he is very concerned about that. I can certainly understand why he would be concerned, because once you leave that chicane cars accelerate quite rapidly. Therefore, it is very hard for him and his family to judge the distances of those vehicles coming towards them when they are trying to exit their driveway. There are some other roads in the area which certainly do need attention, and that is something I will be fighting for over the next 12 months until the next election.