




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 4 September 2019

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

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (11.40 am): Road safety should be of everyday importance to all of us. So many lives are lost on our roads. So many lives are lost needlessly. So many of those tragedies could be prevented. This bill will help make Queensland roads safer. The bill amends the transport legislation to bring forward key road safety initiatives. The bill will reform drink-driving laws. The bill will amend point-to-point camera system requirements. This bill will enable testing of passengers for intoxicating substances where the passenger is suspected of interfering with the operation of a vehicle in a dangerous manner. Road trauma on Queensland's roads is devastating for individuals, families, the broader community and our emergency responders. It costs the Queensland economy over \$5 billion each year.

This bill is aimed at supporting this government's 2020 target of reducing deaths and serious injuries that occur on our roads by 20 per cent. During this year's National Road Safety Week the Queensland Police Service partnered with the Department of Transport and Main Roads to promote important initiatives about road safety. The campaign included outdoor billboards at high-volume, high-speed locations on the Queensland road network, including the Bruce Highway, the Warrego Highway and the Captain Cook Highway. Road Safety Week also included the Move Over, Slow Down campaign with a targeted social media and outdoor road safety campaign reminding drivers to behave safely when passing roadside emergency responders and their vehicles. The essential message is this: road safety is everybody's business, every day of every year. Our government is determined to do everything possible to support this through a concerted effort to reduce high-risk road user behaviour, including the Fatal Five of speeding, fatigue, drink-driving and drug driving, failing to wear seatbelts and driving while distracted.

The Queensland Police Service continues to examine ways to actively promote safe road use and reduce the likelihood of incidents resulting in injury or death. This bill will support their endeavours. The bill will enhance many aspects of the alcohol ignition interlock program, including by introducing education programs for drink-driving offenders which research shows is an effective and cost-effective way to reduce alcohol related harm. These education programs will be mandatory for first-time drink-drivers if they want to get their licence back. Education programs for drink-driving offenders will help keep our roads safe and help ensure that drink-drivers are given appropriate education to understand the devastating impacts of impaired driving on our roads.

The interlock program will also be expanded to be available for mid-range drink-drivers who account for more than a quarter of all offenders and have a crash risk, as we have heard, of up to 20 times greater than someone who has not had a drink. Queenslanders want these drink-driving reforms and the Queensland police know that drink-driving, as one of the Fatal Five, is one of the biggest contributors to road trauma in Queensland.

Drink-driving is the No. 1 contributing factor in approximately 30 per cent of fatal crashes in Australia. Driving under the influence of drugs and drink continue to be needlessly contributing to fatalities on our roads. In 2018, 245 people were tragically killed on Queensland roads and more than 5,600 people were seriously injured. Of these 245 people, 119 people were killed on Queensland roads as a result of drink-driving or drug driving. That is almost 50 per cent of the total 2018 road toll.

It is a major concern that some drivers continue to get behind the wheel of a vehicle and drive after using illicit drugs. Even more concerning is that some passengers would interfere with the operation of a vehicle when they are under the influence of alcohol or drugs. These behaviours are unacceptable and our police are committed to ensuring the safety of road users by continuing to conduct operations to target drink-drivers and drug drivers and now also passengers suspected of dangerously interfering with the operation of a vehicle.

Speeding also continues to be a major factor in serious and fatal traffic crashes. This bill will enable road safety camera enforcement of speed limits on sections of road where multiple speed limits are displayed. If there is a crash risk on a particular road, these amendments mean point-to-point speed cameras can be deployed along that road, reducing instances of speeding and improving traffic flow.

We know speeding kills on our regional roads in North Queensland and these changes will help to keep our regional Queenslanders safe from drivers who continue to disregard the safety and wellbeing of others. Improving safety on our roads must be and is a priority for this government. Queenslanders here in North Queensland and all over the state need to see this bill passed. I commend the bill to the House.