




Speech By  
**Stephen Andrew**

**MEMBER FOR MIRANI**

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

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (12.27 pm): I rise to speak of my concerns with the Transport Legislation (Road Safety and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2019. As some from the opposition have previously indicated, aspects of this bill present as manifestly vindictive and will very likely prove to be counterproductive. While I fully recognise that abuse of alcohol is a scourge on society and I wholeheartedly support stronger rehabilitation and education for repeat offenders, I do however question the need to lengthen the interlock program from 24 months to five years following one—just one—mid-range RBT. This measure has to be questioned.

If we widen the scope of making one mistake and applied that to the behaviour of those in this House, I would suggest that this government would be hard up finding fit and proper members to fill the cabinet. Heaven knows how much legislation has been passed in this House by members who are inadvertently over the limit on return from lunch or dinner. Winding up over .05 is sometimes only a couple of extra drinks or misjudging the strength of drinks and then for one reason or another leaving early. One mistake and five years is a high bar.

Furthermore, has the government considered the increased costs of interlock equipment, particularly the need to recalibrate the equipment regularly? Having interlocks fitted for five years in many cases will mean having to reinstall the interlock equipment when people replace or change vehicles. In regional areas, the impost is likely to prove significantly higher. Worse still, these amendments may wind up causing long-term barriers to attaining and keeping employment. Five years is a long time to be parked up in unemployment as a result of a single bad choice on just one occasion.

**Mrs McMahon:** So is death.

**Mr ANDREW:** That is true. Once unlicensed and uninsured, people succumb to the pressure of having to remain a functional part of society and are more willing to take chances. Sadly, these people too often descend deeper into outright criminality, and society has to then accommodate an even bigger mess. I would strongly recommend the government review the measures and reassess whether the existing rehabilitation and education measures can be managed better without resorting to the big stick approach straight up. Even though I have those reservations, I do commend the bill to the House.