




Speech By
Christopher Whiting

MEMBER FOR BANCROFT

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

**TRANSPORT LEGISLATION (DISABILITY PARKING AND OTHER MATTERS)
AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (4.19 pm): I rise to speak in support of the bills before the House. In my contribution, I wish to focus on the safety measures contained in these bills. As we have shown with our unite and recover plan, keeping Queenslanders safe is at the core of what the Palaszczuk government is about. We want to keep Queenslanders safe, whether it be from the scourge of COVID-19 or the scourge of road deaths.

As we have heard, there have been 127 fatalities on our roads so far this year. In this day and age, that is hard to accept. Also hard to accept is that 30 Queenslanders a year die because they are not wearing seatbelts. As the member for Caloundra touched on, this has had a history over two generations. After two generations, it is still hard to fathom why some people do not wear seatbelts. We know that failure to wear a seatbelt contributes to one in four deaths in vehicles and a further 166 serious injuries each year in Queensland.

Also disappointing during this time of COVID-19 is that in April, for example, despite a 30 per cent drop in traffic volume, risky driving behaviour increased. We saw more speeding and more phone use while driving. It is disappointing because we know that these behaviours lead to more deaths. We know that 80 per cent of fatalities are due to the fatal five—speed, fatigue, seatbelts, driver distraction and drink and drug driving. We know what drives home the message to counter these behaviours—that is, fines and the likelihood of getting caught. These are things that change behaviour.

We know that the new camera technology we are considering in this bill can really help change behaviour. This bill will enable mobile phone and other seatbelt offences to be camera detected in a similar way to other offences such as speeding and red light offences. As we have heard, artificial intelligence will detect whether an offence has possibly occurred. Before being deployed on Queensland roads, the camera system will be tested and tried on our roads and in our conditions.

This may be new technology for Queensland but we can see how it is operating in other jurisdictions. In New South Wales mobile phone detection cameras using this technology came into operation in December last year. In the first month of full operation the camera enforcement of mobile phone offences resulted in 10,000 fines being issued to drivers. For these reasons, I look forward to this new technology being deployed in Queensland.

Before I finish I want to talk about what the disability parking bill means to a family in the Moreton Bay area. Like I am, Dean and Donna Cameron are members of the Moreton Bay Cycling Club. Dean is vision impaired and rides a tandem bike. Donna stated—

For us the passing of this Bill would mean not having to negotiate car parks with Dean and his daughter who are both vision impaired, dealing with trolleys, groceries and navigating Dean through cars and car mirrors and open doors. It means accessing parking close to cycling events where I have to deal with Dean, his guide dog, his equipment and tandem bike.

This legislation is very welcome. We have a unite and recover plan to keep Queenslanders safe. These bills deliver on the thrust of that plan which is to keep Queenslanders safe.