




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

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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

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (3.38 pm): I rise to speak to the Transport Legislation (Disability Parking and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2019 and the Transport and Other Legislation (Road Safety, Technology and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2020, which are being debated cognately today. I acknowledge the work of the member for Traeger and thank him for his passion and commitment.

For my constituent Anthony, the Transport Legislation (Disability Parking and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2019 will mean independence and an opportunity to participate in the life of the community in a way that he never could before. Anthony is legally blind and has unique mobility challenges, as do all those in our communities who are either permanently or temporarily legally blind. Currently, the disability parking permit scheme provides permit holders with parking concessions that offer convenient access to facilities in wide parking bays. In Queensland, the eligibility criteria for a permit has been exclusively based on the applicant's functional ability to walk.

There are approximately 206,000 disability parking permits issued in Queensland consisting of 196,000 permits issued to individuals and 10,000 permits issued to just under 1,000 organisations. Following community feedback, a review was conducted to assess the feasibility of expanding the eligibility criteria for the scheme to include people with vision impairment so that people like Anthony could have access to the scheme. This means that permit holders have access to disability parking bays in commercial and private car parks as well as those provided on the street by local governments and they are permitted to park free of charge in regulated and metered council parking bays for longer than the time stated on the sign. Where the sign shows less than 30 minutes, parking is allowed for 30 minutes. Where the sign shows 30 minutes or more, parking is allowed for an unlimited time and loading zones may be used for dropping off and picking up a person with a disability.

This bill will, as a result of the review, expand the eligibility criteria for a disability parking permit to include people who are diagnosed as legally blind, whether on a temporary or permanent basis. For people like Anthony and his carers, it will mean that they will have greater flexibility and more capacity to engage and participate in community life like never before. Further, the offence for illegally parking in disability parking bays without a valid parking permit is provided in the Queensland Road Rules and this bill increases the police issued infringement penalty in the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014 from \$266 to \$533. This may make my council colleague Councillor Ryan Murphy a little bit more hesitant to parking illegally in disabled parking bays. Setting a higher penalty recognises the seriousness of illegally parking in a disability parking bay and, as I have said, I hope and I know that it will discourage illegal use of the disabled parking bays.

The Transport and Other Legislation (Road Safety, Technology and Other Matters) Amendment Bill will amend various acts to support the introduction and ongoing operation of a digital licence app and facilitate camera enforcement of seatbelt and mobile phone offences. The introduction of a digital licence app will provide Queenslanders the opportunity to engage digitally with Queensland government services. It will provide secure and immediate access to credentials including their drivers' licences, provide customers with greater control in sharing their information, and facilitate reminder and payment notifications.

The app will be optional and in addition to the physical product and the amendments in this bill will ensure that products such as a driver's licence, recreational marine licences, industry authorisations and proof-of-age photo identification cards can be issued as a digital product and that a person can hold the same version of the product both digitally and physically and on multiple devices. Privacy, data security and practicability were key considerations during the development of the app and the legislation does not alter existing privacy protections. The app will improve an individual's ability to manage their personal information.

Distracted driving is an increasing concern on Queensland roads. In 2018 in Queensland, 33 people lost their lives and 1,359 were hospitalised with serious injuries as a result of crashes where distraction was a contributing factor. The introduction of camera detection for mobile phone and seatbelt offences in Queensland aims to save lives and reduce road trauma and the impact it has on families and communities. Nyree Mannion from Make it Home knows firsthand the impact of road trauma on families. Her beloved sister Sharon was involved in a serious car accident over 30 years ago and sustained catastrophic injuries. Nyree and her family support Sharon and now also educate and support young drivers, particularly around the Fatal Five. I know that Nyree will be delighted with these amendments in the Transport and Other Legislation (Road Safety, Technology and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2020. I also know that Anthony and the other vision-impaired people in my community are delighted with the Transport Legislation (Disability Parking and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2019. I commend both bills to the House.