



Speech By  
**Lance McCallum**


**MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA**

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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 McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (3.56 pm): I rise to speak in support of both the Transport Legislation (Disability Parking and Other Matters) Amendment Bill and the Transport and Other Legislation (Road Safety, Technology and Other Matters) Amendment Bill. A quick trip to the local shopping centre, an appointment with the GP, parking the car at the train station and catching public transport—these are parts of our daily lives that we can often take for granted. So too can we take for granted the availability of suitable parking, but for the visually-impaired a trip to the shops, an appointment with the GP and catching public transport can present unique access, safety and mobility challenges.

As an inclusive government for all Queenslanders, we are supporting the visually-impaired in overcoming some of these challenges as we unite and recover. Expanding the Disability Parking Permit Scheme to include vision-impaired people who are legally blind supports the vulnerable in our community. It improves safety, security and peace of mind, not only for the vision-impaired people themselves but also for their families, friends and caregivers. This includes families like mine. My younger brother Robert is legally blind, having developed his vision impairment when we were kids. Reduced walking distances and wide parking bays will have a profound impact on legally blind persons. When a person loses their sight their ability to judge or evaluate risk within an environment is impacted. This impairs their ability to move freely and increases the likelihood of harm. This bill recognises the unique mobility challenges faced by people who have been diagnosed as legally blind and expands the eligibility criteria for a disability parking permit to include people who are legally blind whether on a temporary or permanent basis.

The bill also introduces a definition of 'blind' that is consistent with the basis for the blind pension paid under the Commonwealth government Social Security Guide and under the Social Security Act. The definition in this bill is also consistent with eligibility for the Vision Impairment Travel Pass issued by TransLink here in Queensland and will align Queensland with the eligibility for equivalent schemes in operation in New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory, Tasmania, Victoria and South Australia.

While expanding the Disability Parking Permit Scheme delivers real benefits for people like my brother and families such as mine, it is also future focused, planning for our ageing population and recognising the unique challenges that people with a vision impairment face on a day-to-day basis. Expanding the scheme allows another 18,000 people to apply, permitting parking concessions that offer convenient access to facilities in wide parking bays. Importantly, we are doing everything we can to

ensure those bays remain available only to those who are permitted to use them. That is why we have increased the state based infringement notice penalty for illegally parking in a disability bay from \$266 to \$533.

Acknowledging the important role local governments have in deterring and enforcing the socially unacceptable behaviour of illegally parking in a disability bay, we will continue to work with councils across Queensland to encourage them to adopt the higher penalty for illegal parking. This holistic approach to expanding and enforcing the Disability Parking Permit Scheme supports the visually impaired. It supports their families, friends and caregivers. It supports people such as my brother, Robert, and makes that little bit easier the lives of vulnerable Queenslanders in our community as we continue to unite and recover.

With respect to the Transport and Other Legislation (Road Safety, Technology and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2020, the minister has made it very clear that putting the latest technology to use in Queensland will significantly improve road safety outcomes in our state. I will make a short contribution that centres on the rollout of this technology in Queensland. To help address unsafe behaviour on Queensland's roads caused by illegal phone use and failure to wear a seatbelt, in Queensland there will be a trial of camera technology to detect mobile phone and seatbelt offences. This follows an operational trial of the same technology in New South Wales, which commenced issuing infringements for offences on 1 March this year. Media reports indicate that, in the first month of full operation, camera enforcement of mobile phone offences resulted in over 10,000 fines being issued to drivers engaging in that dangerous behaviour.

Before being deployed in Queensland, the camera system will be thoroughly trialled and evaluated to ensure that it is robust and can accurately detect mobile phone and seatbelt offences in Queensland conditions. The timing for the trial and the procurement process for the camera system have been impacted by the closure of our state borders in order to manage the spread of COVID-19. The trial will proceed as soon as is practicable for it to be done safely. When it is possible for it to go ahead, the trial will test the technology in Queensland conditions. The trial will include strict privacy and security measures to safeguard the system and the data that is collected.

Together these bills make road use in Queensland safer, fairer and more equitable. I commend both bills to the House.