




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 19 February 2020

ADJOURNMENT

Miller Electorate, Road Safety; Medway Creek Rail Disaster

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (7.08 pm): I have been very committed to road safety since the first day I took my seat in this House. As the minister, I have brought in a range of penalties like double demerit points for repeated mobile phone use—the tougher new penalties—and we will see cameras rolled out to enforce our tougher mobile phone penalties so we can save lives on our roads. I am also equally committed to road safety in my local constituency.

Sadly, I can report to the House that we witnessed an embarrassing revelation last week from Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner. The unelected Lord Mayor last week revealed to a fellow councillor that he avoided submitting a proposal to reduce the maximum speed limit through Annerley Junction shopping strip on Ipswich Road to the Speed Management Committee because he knew what the answer would be. This has been taken as a major affront to local Annerley residents and to Junction Park State School parents who have been campaigning hard for many years to reduce the speed on Ipswich Road between Venner Road and the Annerley Police Station to prevent more pedestrian fatalities at the busy main street.

Lord Mayor Schrinner was required to submit speed limit change proposals to the Speed Management Committee for endorsement where police and Transport and Main Roads engineers could scrutinise and analyse proposals. The unelected Lord Mayor did not do this to ensure he got his way by keeping the speed at 60 kilometres per hour, effectively rorting the process. I am standing with Annerley residents and Junction Park State School parents to call on the Lord Mayor to do the right thing and submit this item to the Speed Management Committee for full consideration. This 16-year-old council has let the Annerley community down time and time again. They are still putting lives at risk on our local roads. The request is simple: put safety first and refer the speed limit of Ipswich Road to police and TMR engineers for review. Let the experts decide and not the politicians.

Junction Park State School is literally 50 metres away and yet the Lord Mayor has shamefully ignored the speed limit reduction calls that would help protect local schoolkids as young as four and five. There has already been one too many fatalities up there. We do not need another one to occur. We were led to believe that it was a review of Annerley Junction shopping strip from Venner Road down to the police station, when in fact it was the whole section from Woollongabba to Moorooka. This is again a deception of the community. Let the experts decide.

I would also like to acknowledge that Wednesday, 26 February 2020 marks 60 years since the Medway Creek rail disaster. It is one of the worst rail disasters in Queensland's history, which sadly took the lives of seven people—three train crew and four customers—and injured 43 more. The Rockhampton-bound *Midlander* train, carrying 120 customers, plunged into the flooded Medway Creek after the bridge it was traveling on collapsed. Tonight I would like to acknowledge the actions of those brave individuals who helped and pay my respects to those who were lost in this tragic accident. Our thoughts continue to go out to all those families impacted by this tragic event.