



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Bailey**


**MEMBER FOR MILLER**

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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**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (4.29 pm), in reply: I want to say a few things because we do not usually have a right of reply in these debates. I want to thank a range of people involved in these very important bills.

In terms of the disability provisions, I thank the Guide Dogs of Queensland for their tireless advocacy on this and Elisha Matthews, who is a very strong advocate on the north side. I have met with her and she has been very passionate about disability parking over many years. Labor has enabled this. We also had very strong representations from Ali France, Vision Australia, John Mayo, Spinal Life Australia and the many others who have advocated for this over many years.

I also thank David Greene, from my office, who has put a huge amount of effort into these bills. It is a good sign when everybody wants to claim credit for your bills. That is terrific, but let us be fair: the government has acted on this and has done this. I acknowledge the positive contributions of many people across the spectrum. The member for Hinchinbrook did the work to introduce a bill into the House. I know some of those opposite also advocated for it. I acknowledge those positive contributions, but it is this government that has acted. The member for Hill also did some good work.

I am pleased to advise that I anticipate that the changes in this bill will be implemented by 31 August 2020. I think that is a prompt process through to enactment. I think members would understand how committed I am to road safety. This bill will save lives in terms of the world-beating technology re the use of mobile phones. We should also be the first jurisdiction using this technology re seatbelts. That makes me feel very good. It makes this government feel very good. I acknowledge the support of others on the road safety element of this bill. We have to keep getting better at it. I know that a lot of members here and a lot of members in our community have been touched by this issue. It is something that they will always be very passionate about, as I am.

The digital licence app is obviously the future. I will not go into the details, as I was across this in my introductory speech. I want to cover one aspect of these cognate bills that I am very happy about and supportive of—and I acknowledge the member for Caloundra's contribution on this. I have a similar sentiment to him. Those people who take up disability parking bays when they are not entitled to them are arrogant and it is nasty behaviour. One point that crystallised this for me was when our department was working through the issue to make sure we had the capacity to expand the eligibility for those with visual impairment. A lot of ground work needed to go into these bills and we wanted to make sure we got it right.

I was standing in my constituency right next to a disability parking bay talking to a number of people when I saw a late model Holden Commodore with a pretty powerful engine drive into this parking bay. A chap leapt out of the car. He clearly did not appear to me to have disabilities. I actually challenged

him. I said, 'Have you got a disability?' He said to me, 'No, mate. It's all right,' and started walking off. I have to say that I felt pretty angry about it, so I took my phone out and started taking a picture of his car parked in the disability bay. He turned around to me and said, 'What are you doing?' I said, 'I'm just taking a picture of you committing an offence.' I could see him steam as he was looking at me considering his options. He went back to his car and moved his car in a very unsafe fashion, I might add, but he acted on it.

That moment really crystallised to me what the fine was and what it should be. In doubling the fine, I was actually considering increasing it a lot more because how you treat vulnerable people in our community is a hallmark of what kind of a community and society we have. They got away with doubling the fine, because I was considering a fair bit more. It sends a clear message—over half a grand. If you get caught, you will pay a pretty hefty price. A lot of the enforcement will be done by local government. I am quite deliberate when I say that I hope local government enforces this to the nth degree. I want to see people with disabilities be able to get to their basic services because that is the kind of community we should be. I welcome that part of the bill. I am very proud of that part of the bill.

In closing, I welcome the sentiments in the debate on road safety from members on the opposite side of the chamber, but before we start singing *Kumbaya* on road safety and, metaphorically in the COVID-19 era, having our arms around each other, there is not bipartisanship on road safety because the LNP at this moment still has a policy to water down speed cameras by putting up signs and telling people where they will be, taking the covert randomness out of it. That will mean more speeding. It will mean more crashes and more fatalities. I will keep going on about this. It is going backwards when New South Wales is contemplating the Queensland model and beefing up road safety to stop people dying in crashes. We have seen too many crashes recently due to speeding during the pandemic.

**Mr Hart:** What are you trying to achieve—raising money, not safety.

**Mr BAILEY:** The member for Burleigh might not support road safety but we do. The covert nature of speed cameras—the fact that you could be caught anywhere any time speeding in Queensland—saves lives every single day. When we brought that in under a previous Labor government the fatality rate dropped almost immediately.

We have to be serious about this. I say to the LNP that that policy is reckless and irresponsible. It should be scrapped and we should have a bipartisan position. The New South Wales coalition government is moving towards our tough laws. I support them on that. I support the New South Wales Premier and the Minister for Transport moving in that direction. I think it is fantastic. It will save lives. Let us get the politics out of road safety.

I acknowledge the support of the opposition on these two bills. That is very positive, but they should not come and talk to me about being bipartisan on road safety until they fix that policy anomaly. It is a political position that I do not think is going to win them a single vote anyway. We should have a bipartisanship position on all aspects of road safety because there are too many people dying and there are too many people suffering permanent disfigurements if they do survive horrific crashes. We have to keep getting better at it. I commend the bills to the House. I thank the House.