




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

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ADJOURNMENT

Glass House Electorate, Road Safety

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (7.06 pm): This evening I rise to formally thank the Queensland Police Service for its road policing blitz held across the hinterland last weekend. I for one am grateful for its attention on the area. There have been too many deaths and too many near misses, yet hoons still have not got the message. Maybe the police action over the weekend will convince them that it is just not worth it.

The police were particularly targeting motorbike riders who have been a significant cause for concern across Glass House roads for some time now—roads such as Mount Mee Road, Maleny Stanley River Road and Bald Knob Road. Yes, we have some of the more entertaining roads for motorists. Yes, they are scenic and, yes, our towns are incredibly hospitable. If you are a law-abiding motorist, please come and visit. Make a daytrip of it or, even better, stay a night or stay a week. You will be very welcome. However, if like two idiots on the weekend you want to do 150 kilometres an hour in an 80 zone, then I hope you get caught. You are being selfish, you are being stupid and you are being dangerous. It is as simple as that.

Sadly, it does not stop there. The police were kept busy. Four people were detected exceeding the speed limit by over 40 kilometres an hour, 11 exceeding the speed limit by less than 40 kilometres an hour, one overtaking when unsafe, two failing to keep left of the centre of the road, two defective vehicles, two failing to attach numberplates, one use of high beams and one unregistered driver.

As I said, the cost of dangerous driving is too great. Not only do you risk your own life and the lives of others around you; consider the impact on anyone who witnesses the crash—the first responders, your family, friends, work colleagues and more. The ripple effect is huge. It does not surprise me that there were so many fines. Locals are sick and tired of these roads being used as racetracks. I receive their complaints and concerns daily, so I again thank the police for their presence on our hinterland roads last weekend.

To the officer in charge of Nambour Road Policing Unit, Senior Sergeant Shane Panaho, and his team, my constituents say thank you. There will be some who may say it is inconvenient, annoying, unnecessary, a waste of taxpayer money or even revenue raising—I have heard it all—but at the end of the day these blitzes change behaviour and save lives and for that I am thankful. Indeed, I would love to see more.