



Speech By
Colin Boyce

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Record of Proceedings, 2 December 2021

TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr BOYCE** (Callide—LNP) (3.13 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the inquiry into vehicle safety standards and technology, including engine immobiliser technology. I acknowledge my fellow committee members and thank Mrs Deb Jeffrey and her secretariat for preparing our papers, our meetings and our reports. As has already been said, this report is extensive. It made seven recommendations, including on remote engine immobiliser technology, repairable write-offs, written-off vehicles and the scrap metal industry. I will restrict my contribution to engine immobiliser technology.

The committee found that no technology exists in the world today to make engine immobilisers work effectively and practically in motor vehicles throughout an entire fleet in Queensland, Australia or the world, for that matter. The report states—

... stealing car keys has meant that most Queensland vehicle thefts are now a vehicle with an Australian-standard equivalent immobiliser. Engine immobilisers are 100 per cent ineffective if the thief has access to the car's keys.

Keys are now the primary means to steal a vehicle with an immobiliser with an estimated 70 per cent of late model thefts via keys.

The report further states that in the past five years we have seen a quantum shift in young offender behaviour, with residential burglaries being committed in order to access keys and steal cars. The Police Union said—

There has been no successful implementation of a mandated REI solution across a whole vehicle fleet anywhere in the world.

At this time, there is no single in-vehicle technology available, nor is there the required enabling environment to support the use of REI technology. However, with continued technological development REI may be feasible in the future.

The Queensland Police Service said—

... the best way we can address this issue is to look at the underlying problems, such as social issues, that cause generally young people to behave in the way they do. Whilst we are very keen to apprehend those offenders when they steal a vehicle, there is no doubt that there is a range of societal issues that put those young people in the driver's seat. Whilst we have a reactive duty to apprehend offenders, there is no doubt that government as a whole, not just the police, has an obligation to look at the underlying issues that are causing these young people to offend.

In other words, we need to be more proactive rather than reactive. By that I mean we need to address the social issues that drive young people to steal cars. That is the underlying message in this committee report. The committee also found that almost always those young people themselves are victims of abuse, family violence and other childhood trauma. Disengagement from school and homelessness are key factors in the way a young person's trajectory can lead to stealing cars.

Having said that, I take this opportunity to wish the parliament a very merry, happy and safe Christmas. I hope your car does not get stolen.