



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Bailey**


**MEMBER FOR MILLER**

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Record of Proceedings, 2 September 2021

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Road Safety, Drink Driving and Distracted Driving**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.56 am): The number of lives lost on Queensland roads this year is a tragedy. Sadly, as at 1 September, the number of lives lost stands at 188—an increase of 19 on the same time last year. These are not just numbers; these are people whose lives have been cut short, leaving family and friends behind.

Shockingly, drink driving accounts for almost a quarter of the lives lost on Queensland roads—this despite decades of strong education campaigns and warnings of the dangers of drink driving. Today is D-day for drink drivers. The Palaszczuk Labor government is cracking down. From next week drivers caught with a blood alcohol concentration above .1 will be sent to the Alcohol Ignition Interlock Program. This program, used successfully on high-range drink drivers, is expanding to mid-range drink drivers as well. It means even when they get their licence back they will need to show a clean record of breath for at least 12 months. We know mid-range drink drivers account for more than a quarter of all offenders and have a crash risk 20 times higher than the average driver. That is why we are cracking down on them.

We are also increasing the current two year ‘sit out period’ for those who refuse to fit an interlock to five years to avoid people getting around it. We are not stopping there when it comes to getting tough on drink driving. For the first time, all drink-driving offenders will need to complete an education program before they can reapply for their licence. Research shows that education programs reduce the rate of reoffending.

When it comes to road safety, the Palaszczuk Labor government has also committed almost \$1.7 billion in this year’s state budget. This will be used to prioritise safety upgrades, improve driver education and make school zones safer. It is in stark contrast to when the LNP were in office when they cut \$1.6 billion from the road and transport budget—

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Chatsworth!

**Mr Lister** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Southern Downs, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Mr BAILEY:** They cut \$60 million from road safety funding and \$25 million from the regional safety development program. We are cracking down but we also need road users to step up. The fatal five—speeding, drink and drug driving, failure to wear a seatbelt, fatigue and driver distraction—continue to be contribution factors in more than half the lives lost on our roads. It is why the Palaszczuk Labor government is also rolling out distracted driver cameras that also target seatbelt noncompliance. The figures from the first month of operation, to be quite frank, are shocking. More than 9,000 drivers have been caught distracted on their mobile phone or not wearing a seatbelt.

Drivers distracted on mobile phones while driving are endemic on our roads. That is why the Palaszczuk Labor government is cracking down on distraction, which is the drink driving of this era. We are rolling out speed cameras in school zones to stop drivers putting our Queensland kids at risk. Tougher drink-driving laws, distracted driver and seatbelt cameras, more funding for road safety and a crackdown on drivers speeding through our school zones are all priorities of this government. The Palaszczuk Labor government is taking road safety seriously. We are cracking down, and now we need all drivers to do the right thing every time they drive. Together we can bring down the number of lives lost on our roads.