




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 28 October 2021

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Road Safety

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.12 am): I also lend my support to comments by the Premier and the Deputy Premier to the great service by Dr Young as our Chief Health Officer—someone who has been humble, sharp, thorough, direct and ahead of the curve, who has been excellent and who will officially be excellent from next Monday. It is a wonderful appointment.

We are cracking down on distracted drivers and those not wearing seatbelts. New high-tech cameras have been operating on Queensland roads since July, catching and warning people driving dangerously and distracted. It is shocking how many drivers we have identified in that time. Over 18,000 people have been photographed driving distracted with their mobile phone behind the wheel—18,000. Using a phone while driving is just as dangerous as drink driving, and the research is very clear: it is like driving drunk with .07 to .1 blood alcohol in your system. That is like having 18,000 drunk drivers on our roads. And then there are those, incredibly, who are in this day and age not wearing a seatbelt—more than 3,000 of those drivers. All up, we saw more than 20,000 warning letters issued in three months.

This is a wake-up call to our dangerous distracted drivers. We see you and we will catch you. From Monday there are no second chances. Big fines from these cameras kick in from Monday so that people driving distracted and dangerously behind the wheel can expect a \$1,033 fine and cop four demerit points, and we make no apology for that whatsoever. Repeat offenders face losing their licence if they are caught twice in a year. I make no apologies for us being tough on this because this is about making our roads safer for every single Queenslanders.

If you are one of these people who are doing the wrong thing, deal with it right now because we will deal with you. That is why the Palaszczuk Labor government is investing in this innovative technology and road safety. Innovative technology like new school zone and roadworks cameras will also be trialled from next year. These solar powered cameras will be built into flashing school zone and roadwork signs already on our roads. What we want to see from this world-first trial is a serious reduction in reckless driving through school zones and work sites.

In the first six months of this year, we saw more than 6,500 people caught speeding through school zones. This reckless behaviour of course endangers students, parents, our crossing supervisors as well as teachers and staff. We want drivers doing the right thing on our roads every single time they drive. The Fatal Five are a factor, tragically, in more than half of deadly crashes—all of those preventable. Just like random breath testing is anywhere, anytime enforcement, our new mobile phone distraction and seatbelt cameras will be too from Monday, so slow down, belt up, stay off your phone and stay safe on our roads. These cameras start Monday.

Mr SPEAKER: I do not normally comment on matters of public interest, but that is a very disturbing set of statistics, Minister. I hope people heed the call.