




Speech By
Bruce Saunders

MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

Record of Proceedings, 31 August 2022

**TRANSPORT LEGISLATION (ROAD SAFETY AND OTHER MATTERS)
AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (11.33 am): I rise in support of the Transport Legislation (Road Safety and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2022. I would like to put on the record that I have had many conversations with the member for Logan about road safety in my role as the Assistant Minister for Regional Roads. We have had some good conversations, and he is very aware of and a big supporter of road safety and what this government is doing to help road users throughout the state.

I would like to congratulate the minister and his staff, the director-general of the DTMR and the RoadTek crews for their work during the big rain events. Could members imagine what would have happened if the LNP had stayed in power with the workers they sacked? If we did not have those RoadTek and TMR workers, we would not have the roads back together so quickly. We endured two floods in the great city of Maryborough, and the bridges were opened so quickly thanks to the TMR and RoadTek crews. I cannot thank them enough. The potholes were fixed. They are great men and women who go out in all conditions to make sure the roads are safe for us. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for the good work they do.

We could talk all day about road safety, but one thing that has to happen is driver behaviour has to change. In my role as the Assistant Minister for Regional Roads, I do a lot of kilometres on Queensland roads and I know the investment from the Palaszczuk government. We are spending over \$18 billion on regional roads at the moment, but safety also involves driver behaviour. The only way we are going to change this is with legislation and fines. I will give an example. Last week I was driving to Yeppoon on the Bruce Highway and some of the driver behaviour was scandalous. I saw overtaking on double lines around a corner. It was appalling. We cannot legislate for that, but we must try to educate people and this will happen with all of the fines going back into driver education. We need to tell people that it is not okay to overtake on double lines and it is not okay to drive with your telephone to your ear. There has to be some responsibility back on the driver with driver behaviour. We see it all the time.

The member for Gregory will agree with this next point. He would have seen how motorists overtake the trucks with cattle and give no consideration to the fact that a truck cannot brake on a 10-cent piece. Motorists have to leave room for the trucks. The trucks are important in regional communities because that is how we move our freight and livestock around. We have to make sure that drivers are aware that they cannot just overtake and stop in front of the B-doubles and B-triples on the road. Motorists need to give them considerable time when they overtake them.

Mr Millar: It's 54 metres.

Mr SAUNDERS: I take that interjection from the member for Gregory. It takes 54 metres for a truck to stop. Thank you for that. We have to educate the people who visit Western Queensland and have never driven on these roads. They must always make sure that they give the trucks ample room, particularly on some of the narrow roads in Western Queensland.

The bill also talks about school zones and the flashing lights with the cameras. I think that is a great move. It is absolutely tremendous because how much money do we put on a child's life? It is good to see that the LNP supported this bill through the committee process. Anything we do as legislators to save lives on the road is worth it. We need to do anything we can in this place to make sure that people can get home safely or can go on holidays and come home safely. We all have an obligation in this chamber to make sure there is legislation to stop people from using their telephones and that we educate drivers, particularly young drivers. There are a lot of good programs around Queensland run by Rotary, Lions and other organisations to educate young people in high schools about driver behaviour, road safety and maintenance on their vehicles.

The other thing I am very pleased with in the bill is the mobility scooters. Maryborough and Hervey Bay have a large number of people who use mobility scooters, and I would like to give a shout-out to a good friend of mine, Camille, who uses a mobility scooter in Maryborough. Through her advocacy through my office and the great work from TMR, we were able to change an intersection in my city to make it safer for people on mobility scooters to cross. Camille did a lot of work with me because she is in a mobility scooter so that was important for her. The chair of the committee, the member for Kurwongbah, told me that if we increase the speed limit to 15 kilometres an hour it gives people on these mobility scooters a greater choice.

As I said, I travel a lot on regional roads. This government has committed a lot of money to regional roads across the state. We are doing heaps of work. Looking out west, from Jericho across to Blackall, the Cramsie to Muttaborra roads, there are upgrades to roads all around regional Queensland—

Mrs Gilbert interjected.

Mr SAUNDERS: To take that interjection from the member for Mackay, there are upgrades too around Mackay and all around Queensland, and that is because we are committed to spending money. When people pull me up in the street and they want to talk about the money which is spent in the south-east corner, I explain to them that this government is spending more on roads in regional Queensland than in the south-east corner. We are making sure that it is safe for the RVs, the trucks and road users to use regional roads.

As I said earlier, and I will say it again, driver behaviour has to change. We have to make sure that drivers are aware they need to drive to the conditions, do not drink and drive and obey the speed limits at all times. I commend the bill to the House.