




Speech By  
**Joan Pease**

**MEMBER FOR LYTTON**

---

Record of Proceedings, 31 August 2022

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

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (11.51 am): Whilst I would really value the opportunity to get up and refute and comment on the many points that the member for Hinchinbrook spoke about, I am not going to waste my time because it is purely laughable. I rise today to speak in support of the Transport Legislation (Road Safety and Other Matters) Amendment Bill.

**Mr Dametto** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Bush): The member for Hinchinbrook will cease his interjections.

**Ms PEASE:** In doing so, I would like to acknowledge the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Mark Bailey, for his outstanding work in upholding road safety in Queensland. I also commend the Transport and Resources Committee; the committee chair, Shane King, the member for Kurwongbah; and other committee members; the committee secretariat; and Hansard for their work to consult Queenslanders on this important bill. The committee called for submissions and received a number of submissions and one late submission.

This is a very important bill and it is critical that we take careful consideration when we examine it. That is why again this government and the committee undertook to get advice from experts who actually know what they are talking about. It is not anecdotal advice or an opinion about this; it is actually relevant, pertinent data that responds to the matter at hand. That is what good governments do. They actually use proper scientific data to evaluate, to assess and to come up with the right outcome, not some random advice saying, 'I want to be able to drive 200 kilometres an hour because, hey, I am bulletproof,' which is kind of what the member for Hinchinbrook was saying. Feedback from stakeholders involved in this process included motorised mobility device users as well as representatives from academia, disability associates, suppliers of the motorised mobility devices, insurers, local governments, advocacy groups, police, state road and transport agencies and the Australian government.

This bill will improve road safety, something that is important to my bayside community. We have too many incidents on our roads—crashes that result in fatalities or catastrophic injuries that could easily have been avoided. We need strong legislation in place to minimise the risk of these potential harms to road users. It means enforcing laws through legislation that would influence driver behaviour in order to reduce the number of avoidable fatalities like, for example, speed cameras. People know that if they speed past a speed camera they will get caught. It might take a little while for them to receive that infringement notice, but they will get caught. The same goes for those cameras pinging people for not wearing their seatbelt or for being on their mobile phones. That is one of our fatal five which also includes: speeding, not wearing seatbelts, driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol, and driving distracted. People will get pinged. That is an important thing. It might not happen immediately because a police officer cannot be beside them each and every time they get behind the wheel of a car, but they will get caught, and that is the important thing.

The Palaszczuk government is absolutely committed to reducing the number of fatalities on our roads each year. It is doing this by introducing this strong legislative framework, which will allow us to hold road safety in the highest regard. This bill will increase the range of mobility scooters, make improvements to certain court and administration processes and make minor amendments to transport legislation. The bill will improve road safety by clarifying how financial penalties from camera detected offences are invested for road safety purposes and provide legal protection for health professionals who, in good faith, report on the medical fitness to drive of the holders of non-Queensland driver's licences.

The bill proposes to achieve the policy objectives by amending the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995 and making consequential amendments to various regulations: to modernise and clarify how financial penalties collected for camera detected offences can be spent on road safety initiatives; implement the national MMD changes in Queensland and apply gratuitous registration and compulsory third-party arrangements to a greater range of MMDs; ensure a health professional who provides information about a non-Queensland driver's licence holder's fitness to drive has the same legal protection as would apply if the information was provided by a Queensland licence holder; allow for documentary related evidence to be provided to courts for certain objective and non-contentious information relevant to vehicle standards related offences; and upgrade the definition of gross vehicle mass. It will also amend: the Transport Planning and Coordination Act to provide that a digital photo taken when a person is less than 15 years old will have a shelf life of five years instead of 10; and the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994 to clarify that accommodation works may be undertaken as a result of a rail project to provide certainty and consistency for landowners and occupiers and all transport projects.

As I have said, there are way too many crashes that result in catastrophic injuries or fatalities on our roads—injuries or fatalities that could have been prevented. There is so much to take into consideration to keep road users safe from harm. If we lived in a world where everyone did the right thing to keep themselves and others safe, legislation for road safety would not need to exist. Unfortunately, we know that is not the case because driver behaviour such as speeding, driving fatigued, drink and drug driving, driving distracted and driving without seatbelts is still a major contributing cause of deaths and catastrophic injuries on our roads. These traffic incidents have long and lasting effects on families, friends and our first responders.

I have participated in a traffic incident exercise at QCESA, which is our Queensland Combined Emergency Services Academy at Whyte Island, which is in my electorate. The QFES crew took me through what a traffic incident looks like and what it looks like to them as a first responder. It was incredibly confronting. Whilst the people involved in the incident were all actors and the blood was not real, cutting them out of the vehicles, breaking windscreens and rescuing them from these vehicles was really hard. It was hard physically and emotionally. Holding up those jaws of life pieces of equipment that are used for cutting was a massive undertaking. Even smashing a windscreen was difficult. One would think that would be an easy thing, but because there was someone inside the vehicle it had to be planned.

This is the bread and butter of our first responders. I really want to take the opportunity to say thank you for the great work they do. They go out and turn up to save these people. May I say, they have an absolute genuine care for these people who find themselves, many times through no fault of their own, in a terrible set of circumstances. These first responders look after these people so kindly and lovingly. One of the things that is so important to them—and they have spoken to me about this—is that they want the loved ones of these people to know that they genuinely want to take care of them.

I cannot express enough how proud I am and how moved I am by their capacity for great compassion and genuine care under horrific circumstances. It is terrifying—and I was just in an exercise. These men and women are beside a road as cars are screaming past, trying to deal with people who are screaming out in agony. That is what they do. I thank them. They are true professionals and I acknowledge the great work they do.

I call on everyone in this House, in Queensland and across Australia: next time you decide to make or take a call while you are driving, decide not to wear a seatbelt that rubs your neck or think, 'I'll be right mate' or 'I've got time for one more drink before I get behind the wheel,' just don't. Stop. Please, do not do it. Think of the impact your behaviour will have on everyone else around you. Stop being selfish and think of other people, because your selfish decision will have long and lasting impacts on so many in our community. Anything that will reduce the number of these incidents and reduce the number of times that our first responders are required to pull people from their vehicles is a good thing in my book. I commend the bill to the House.