




Speech By  
**Bruce Saunders**

**MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH**

---

Record of Proceedings, 25 October 2023

### **TOW TRUCK BILL**

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (4.54 pm): I love speaking after the member for Callide because it makes me look good. I wish he would speak every day and I would follow him every day. If that is the talent on that side of the House I would hate to see the reserves list, because those on the main team are not real good.

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** I hear the shadow minister, the member for Chatsworth, interrupting and talking about how good he is. If he gets to become transport minister, I think I will ride a pushbike. That is all I will say, but I will be riding a pushbike.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Member for Maryborough, you are now 35 seconds in and you have not referred to the bill yet, so I would bring you back to it, please.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** Thank you for that guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker, but there is so much on that side to throw fun at. The Tow Truck Bill 2023 will replace the Tow Truck Act 1973. Those over there are like a worn tyre—thump, thump, thump, thump going on the highway. That is all we hear from them. I want to thank the committee chair and the deputy chair, and we know that the deputy chair is retiring. This is a good opportunity for a new career because of what he has done about the tow trucks. When he gets out of the parliament he could become a tow truck operator in Gregory. He knows all the roads and he knows all the people.

I thank the minister for the legislation. It is good legislation talking about bribery and incentives to gain information about crash scenes to secure a tow, practices that are not supported by the towing industry or the Queensland government. The existing bribery protections in the legislation will be maintained and in some instances strengthened. It is proposed that a new tow truck regulation currently in development will address this behaviour by making it an offence for towing accreditation holders to offer inducements to vehicle owners and accreditation holders to offer inducements to other persons in exchange for providing information about an incident such as a crash and a person receiving a benefit in exchange for information about such instances, that is, using crash spotters. There has been consultation with the stakeholders involved in this. The penalties for these offences are proposed to be consistent with similar offences that exist in the current act.

**Mr KING:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Buderim is waving around a prop and there have been several times today when we have heard how wrong that is.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Kurwongbah. I did not see that and I would just reiterate the advice given by the Deputy Speaker and Speaker in earlier parts of the day about the use of props to all members.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** In line with the committee's recommendations on the bill, TMR will also support the industry to establish a tow truck industry peak body. The viability of the towing industry is crucial as an essential service provider to our community. To remain viable, they need to charge a reasonable fee

for their services. The tow truck industry plays a crucial role in the safe and efficient removal of vehicles from the road network, improving traffic flow and ensuring the safety of motorists. I think all of us in this House have at some time or other used tow truck operators. I want to give a big shout-out—

**Ms Boyd:** Particularly you.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** I will not take that interjection from the member for Pine Rivers. I want to give a shout-out to my mate Paul, who is a towie in Maryborough—a very good mate of mine. I know that Paul is out in his tow truck quite often. He is a very good friend, a very honourable man, and he works very hard in his tow truck. I will honour what the chair of the committee said—that is, they are first responders and they are highway traffic heroes because they work in many dangerous situations picking up cars to tow. I know that they have picked me up on the freeway a few times when my car has broken down. In all, this bill is a good bill and the committee has worked hard.

We heard from the member for Callide that there was not enough consultation during the committee hearing. I have talked to a few tow truck operators that I know and they were quite happy with the consultation and they are glad that this legislation is before the parliament. I thank the minister, his staff and TMR for this legislation. A good government makes sure that legislation is good—and this is very good legislation. I commend the bill to the House.