




Speech By
Bryson Head

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Record of Proceedings, 23 February 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Callide Electorate, Driver Reviver Sites

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (5.58 pm): I rise to speak on the disgraceful decision by the Minister for Transport to close Queensland's driver reviver sites. This morning I was more than happy to sponsor a petition on behalf of the QCWA Gin Gin Branch and local champion Pamela Rebbeck. So much was their passion in making sure this vital service continues, they ran out of official pages. Therefore, tonight, alongside the 381 conforming signatures, I table a further 345 signatures from the Gin Gin community.

Tabled paper: Nonconforming petition regarding Gin Gin driver reviver [215](#).

I must also highlight I am not the only local member tabling a petition to protect their driver reviver sites and support their community. The member for Southern Downs tabled his petition with thousands of signatures to protect the Gladfield driver reviver in his electorate earlier this week.

The Palaszczuk government is expected to rake in almost half a billion dollars this financial year from camera fines alone, but they claim they cannot afford to keep driver revivers open. It has been revealed that it would cost less than \$1 million to bring all sites up to code and avoid their closure. The Palaszczuk government claims the approximately \$400,000 it will take to upgrade the Gin Gin driver reviver site is too much. Firstly, what is the cost of a single life that this service would inevitably save? Secondly, having been at this site with the member for Burnett only last week, I struggle to see how this site requires a \$400,000 upgrade. Maybe the influence of the 'red carpet Premier' has overcome the Minister for Transport and he expects this site to be good for the very finest of stilettos! This site simply does not require an upgrade of this scale.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Member, I will remind you to use correct titles in this House.

Mr HEAD: This site simply does not require an upgrade of this scale. If the minister had bothered seeing this site with his own eyes I am sure even he would have come to that inclusion. It is incredible that the highest upgrade cost seems to have been intentionally assigned to the driver reviver site with one of the most active volunteer groups.

We know fatigue is a major cause of traffic collisions. The large volumes of traffic during school holidays only exacerbates the risks. Queensland's road toll is the highest it has been in years. This cut is reckless, dangerous and completely irresponsible. By closing driver reviver sites, the Labor government is putting political stunts like Wellcamp ahead of road safety in the bush. When it comes to road safety, they are all talk.

In the last election campaign the LNP committed \$50 million towards new and upgraded driver rest areas that would have supported 150 jobs, improved road safety and boosted local tourism. I support the petition that has been tabled this week.