




Speech By
James Lister

MEMBER FOR SOUTHERN DOWNS

Record of Proceedings, 25 October 2023

TOW TRUCK BILL

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (6.51 pm): I thank my good friend the member for Redlands for that reference.

Ms Richards: Finn McMissile.

Mr LISTER: Finn McMissile, yes. I am a bit of a fan of that because my kids were of that age when *Cars* and *Cars 2* were really big. My kids watched them over and over again.

Ms Pugh: Great movie.

Mr LISTER: Yes. I take that interjection from the member for Mount Ommaney; it is a great movie. My kids will probably be watching now because they wanted me to talk about Tow Mater. I think the best line was when Tow Mater said, 'Whatever you do, do not eat the free pistachio ice cream. It has turned!' Anyone who has seen that would know what I am talking about. Thank you for your indulgence, Madam Deputy Speaker.

I have a brief contribution to make on this bill. I want to make the House aware of some of the peculiarities of the tow truck business on the border in my electorate of Southern Downs. I believe that the areas the tow truck industry works in around the Gold Coast are regulated zones, but this does not include the areas in my electorate. I gained this from some correspondence I had with the minister about six months ago. The effect of that is that tow truck operators in my electorate compete with New South Wales tow truck operators, who can come into Queensland—because it is an unregulated zone—and pick up work. The Queensland tow truck operators are unable to do the same thing and pick up work by crossing the border into New South Wales. There is no accreditation required for the New South Wales operators, but Queensland operators would have to be accredited in New South Wales. That is very expensive and I believe involves regulations like wearing certain uniforms and so on.

I was speaking to the family of Jamie and Kristine Reid, who operate Warwick Towing N' Recovery in Warwick. This was one of their concerns. Wherever there is any regulation along the New South Wales-Queensland border, there tends to be complications—some of it unintended, some of it could be intended. Others are very difficult to explain all around.

One of the things I would really like to see in the future is that regulation of these sorts of things would be organised with the New South Wales government, perhaps with a future cross-border commission, to ensure the regulation of the areas does not unnecessarily disadvantage Queensland operators such as the Reids in Warwick and can keep the pests of New South Wales out of our area when there is money to be made by Queensland local family businesses.