




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Road Safety

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (10.12 am): Sadly I have to report to the House that earlier this week we lost a RoadTek traffic controller in a fatal vehicle crash. Every worker deserves to get to work and to get home safely every day. Our thoughts are with their family, their friends and their workmates.

Tragically 297 people lost their lives on Queensland roads last year—the worst outcome in over a decade. These are not just numbers: they are all people whose lives have been cut short and who have left families and friends behind. The Palaszczuk government is committed to bringing down the number of lives lost of our roads. We want to see zero deaths on our roads. That is why we are investing \$1.8 billion in road safety over the next four years.

This week is Road Safety Week, as you can see from the yellow pin, with this year's theme building on last year's theme of 'Road safety starts with me'. We need to make sure we do everything we can to get every Queenslanders home safely every time they drive. I encourage everyone to wear yellow this week to show their support for road safety.

This year we will be celebrating safe on-road behaviours, encouraging road users to consider the positive and practical things they can do to stay safe on our roads with their family, friends and workmates. Today I will be speaking with this year's winners of the Co-Lab Youth Road Safety Challenge. This is a competition we established a number of years ago for young people to design road safety campaigns targeted at young people, knowing that youth culture changes very quickly.

I would like to thank all of the young people involved in the process—and there were many—from right across the state. I especially congratulate the winners: Matthew Lowe, Haley Anning Rivera, Abigale Pineda, Brianna Dunigan and Tenason Stark. They created a fantastic campaign targeting young people. It is a very impressive campaign indeed. The work they have done will have a positive impact on road safety for young drivers. Their campaign will go live later this year.

Earlier this week our seatbelt campaign went live via StreetSmarts. I encourage everybody right throughout the state to ensure that they and their passengers are all buckled up every time the car moves into motion. I think one of the very scary things about the new cameras is that they are displaying just how many passengers are not wearing seatbelts. The message is that drivers need to take responsibility for their passengers. We all have to do more to get that message across. It is the seatbelt that will save your life if something goes wrong. That is not just because of a \$1,161 fine but because of serious injury or loss of life that can result from incorrectly wearing or not wearing a seatbelt.

I thank my Department of Transport and Main Roads and StreetSmarts for their hard work in bringing the campaign together which is quite confronting to watch. I encourage all members to have a look at it. In January this year I convened a road safety round table that brought together more than 40 transport experts, stakeholders and industry leaders to explore options to improve road safety. We have taken on a lot of the great ideas from stakeholders.

We continue to develop and investigate opportunities to improve road safety as a result of that round table including the introduction of an immediate licence suspension for high-range speeding offences; trialling new technology to identify and discourage dangerous driver behaviour such as mobile phone usage while driving and tailgating; implementing the Ride to Zero motorcycle safety program, a community-led approach to improving rider outcomes—and there will be more to come on that; and increased funding for the Targeted Road Safety Program. That funding includes \$143 million to address key safety concerns on our road network as part of the High Risk Roads initiative; \$47 million for the Safer Roads Sooner initiative; more than \$8 million for Targeted Safety initiatives; more than \$8 million to protect vulnerable road users; more than \$7 million for the School Transport Infrastructure Program; and more than \$660,000 for the Mass Actions initiative. These are all part of our approach to improving road safety as we continue to roll out mobile phone distraction and seatbelt cameras. They are absolutely having a good effect. Driving distracted is equivalent to having .07 to .1 blood alcohol in your system. It is like drunk driving and that has been researched thoroughly.

We make no apologies for taking a strong stance on road safety. I encourage and sincerely invite all members of this House in Road Safety Week to commit to making at least one or two posts on their social media to get this message across about road safety. We all have a role to play here whether we are in the city, the country, the bush or North Queensland. We all have some trust in our communities in our different ways. We have to get that road safety message across to people who listen to all of us. If you get those basics right when you drive every time, your risk massively reduces. I encourage all members to play a part and get active in Road Safety Week because we all want to save lives.