




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 12 September 2023

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Camera Detected Offence Program

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (10.01 am): Mr Speaker, it is great to have you back. Every person deserves to get home safely, especially on our roads. Sadly, 196 people have lost their life on our roads this year. We know distraction and not wearing a seatbelt are two very real killers, which is why we are tough on these dangerous behaviours as a government. We make no apologies for investing in the latest technology to keep Queenslanders safe on our roads.

Last week I was made aware of a design fault in the mobile phone distraction and seatbelt camera system identified by the Department of Transport and Main Roads. This resulted in double demerit points being incorrectly issued for some seatbelt offences where it was a second or subsequent offence and one was a camera detected offence where a passenger was not correctly wearing a seatbelt. I am advised this impacted 1,842 licence holders between 1 November 2021 and 31 August this year.

My department worked to immediately rectify the issue and today I can update the House that all 121 people with currently suspended licences have been contacted or attempted to be contacted. Those unable to be reached by phone or email will be issued a letter of information. Legal advice has been provided and will guide how licences can be swiftly reissued. I am advised the Department of Transport and Main Roads has the appropriate legislative powers to undertake rectification work.

The department is currently developing a procedure to support updating customer records and this process will be thoroughly tested. Once finalised, those with currently suspended licences will be rectified in the first instance with other customers to follow. Others who have been incorrectly issued double demerit points but still hold a licence will also be contacted. Transport and main roads is working to make contact with all impacted people as soon as possible.

The acting director-general has appointed Pinnacle QM, an Australian based firm with over 30 years experience, to lead the independent review into the Camera Detected Offence Program. I expect that will be completed in coming months. We want to make sure that this situation never occurs again and ensure that we are using the best available technology to keep every Queenslanders on our roads safe. Despite this, the message is clear: buckle up every single time you drive. It could save your life and that of your passengers as well.