




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Engine Immobilisers

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (9.59 am): Technology is a big part of our everyday lives. Ideally, it makes our lives better. Part of that is finding new and different ways to use existing technologies to improve our lives. Immobiliser technology has been around for many years. In fact, for the last two decades all vehicles coming into Australia have had to be fitted with a key activated immobiliser so that a vehicle cannot be started without the keys.

Now we have new technology engine immobilisers. It is currently not fitted as standard to vehicles—and I will come back to that later—but the technology is now available. The government's announced trial of new technology engine immobilisers is gathering pace. This project is being led by Acting Assistant Commissioner Chris Stream from the Queensland Police Service. I commend him on his excellent efforts to date.

In recent weeks police have held consultation sessions with industry. The first round of consultation took place in Cairns at the end of the week parliament sat in the Far North. I acknowledge the member for Cairns as a strong supporter of that industry consultation. Police advise that the feedback from industry representatives was that new technology engine immobilisers were effective as an added layer of security and reduced significantly the likelihood of a vehicle being stolen. Last week the police conducted further industry consultation in Townsville—the member for Thuringowa was there, and I know that this project is strongly supported by the Townsville MPs—and Mount Isa.

Those are the three locations chosen for the trial—Cairns, Townsville and Mount Isa. The trial will be available to eligible residents in those three areas. The trial will offer up to 20,000 subsidy vouchers to residents to offset the cost of installing the approved device. It is expected that for a number of approved devices there will be no out-of-pocket expense for residents. Details about how eligible residents can obtain a voucher will be publicly announced in the near future.

Individuals will be able to choose the type of approved immobiliser that best suits their needs and budget. While it is expected that the trial will encourage more Queenslanders to install these devices, it is important to note that these devices are currently already available for installation, and vehicle owners in any part of Queensland, who are in the position to do so, do not need to wait for the trial.

I am hopeful that this trial will not only have an impact on vehicle security here in Queensland, but potentially across the nation. As many would know, key activated immobilisers have been a standard fitment in vehicles for around 20 years. I hope that this Australian first trial of new technology engine immobilisers in Queensland leads to a requirement nationally that new vehicles are fitted with this device as standard. This is something that Queensland Police Union President Ian Leavers and I have been advocating for in recent times. That would be a great outcome for Queenslanders and a great outcome for Australians. In the meantime, I urge residents of Cairns, Townsville and Mount Isa to consider participating in the trial as it is rolled out in coming months.