




Speech By
Stephen Bennett

MEMBER FOR BURNETT

Record of Proceedings, 26 October 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Burnett Electorate, Speed Camera

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (6.00 pm): I raise in the House tonight an issue that is confronting a lot of Queenslanders, and particularly residents around the town of Bororen. A question without notice was asked this morning about speed cameras that are plaguing the state. At the outset, I say that I do not condone speeding. These people have been caught doing more than the speed limit that has been set, but we have to talk about what is fair and reasonable. The compliance standards that the police have applied for decades are not applied in these circumstances.

I will tell the House about some of the real-life occurrences. There is the issue of 80 kilometre an hour zones being taken out and having '60 ahead' signs. That implies that people should be reducing their speed. I agree with that, but we have not had an education program so people have a chance to change their driving behaviour.

In Bororen where this speed camera was located I challenge that this is actually a blackspot. It was done for no other reason than to raise revenue. This issue is serious. There were thousands of fines incurred and it took a month to get the first infringement notices to people. As a result, some people have racked up, through illegal behaviour, I get that, many fines, but in this state we have to be fair and reasonable. It is coming up to Christmas and this is going to decimate people's capacity to even pay the fines let alone deal with it.

The other issue people in Queensland need to be aware of is that if they are in a commercial vehicle these fines can be astronomical. Ergon workers, railway workers and truckies who got fined because of this camera are now at real risk of not being able to pay their fine and losing their jobs as well. I understand that they can apply for a licence for three months or they can get a one-point licence through the prosecution process. Again, I come back to what is fair and reasonable.

This has not just happened in Bororen; it has happened in Torrens Creek. We know the member for Hill has had the same issue in his electorate. The member for Callide has hundreds of people in Biloela who have contacted him about this. The cameras are only there for a couple of weeks, but they are doing extreme damage. I think it is only fair that there should have been an education program and someone to work with these people.

I had a meeting in Bororen about a month ago and people turned up clutching thousands of dollars worth of fines that they have to pay. We should have done an education program. We should apply a standard that is reasonable. We should apply the same compliance standards as the police.

As time goes on, we should rethink how we are going to deal with the fatal five. I think seeing 80-year-old people lose their licences and having to pay thousands of dollars coming into Christmas is anything but reasonable. I call on the minister who is in the House to reflect on what this should look like going forward. This is a state where we should provide compassion and empathy while we are ensuring road safety. This is not the way to do it.