



Speech By
Dr Christian Rowan

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL


Record of Proceedings, 15 February 2024

TRANSPORT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 14 February (see p. 184), on motion of Mr Mellish—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (12.47 pm), continuing: I understand that there were some submitters who were also of the view that the road safety provisions would negatively impact on cyclists, with suggestions that it will deter people from cycling due to the subjective nature of the offence, that the offences were disproportionate to other jurisdictions and that the penalties were not proportionate to the nature of the offence. In responding to these submissions, I note that the Transport and Resources Committee stated that they—

... support the view that the consequences of riding without due care and attention can be equally severe regardless of where incidents may occur, particularly given that road-related areas are also used by pedestrians of all ages and abilities. We agree that rider obligations should be applied consistently regardless of the type of vehicle or location of offending. Furthermore, we note that the proposed provision to ride with due care already exists for PMD and bicycle riders on roads under section 84(2) of the TORUM Act, and the Bill would extend the requirement to road-related areas.

Since I was first elected to the Queensland parliament in 2015, I have consistently and strongly championed the enhancing of road safety and road and transport infrastructure for the electorate of Moggill. I have especially and repeatedly called on this state Labor government to live up to its objective of improving road safety, particularly for our local cyclists, pedestrians, and active and public transport users. Improving road safety should not just be a key objective of this legislation. It should be an ongoing key objective and a key deliverable of this state Labor government, particularly for the electorate of Moggill.

If the Labor state government is truly genuine in wanting to improve road safety, particularly for cyclists and other road users, it should look at the state controlled Moggill Road and Mount Crosby Road. In my ongoing productive and positive engagements with local bicycle user groups and resident cyclists, all too often I hear of the dangers that exist as cyclists travel along these roads. As articulated in the explanatory notes, this legislation specifically seeks to improve road safety for road related areas, which include footpaths. The Labor state government must deliver enhanced footpath and pedestrian infrastructure along both Moggill Road and Mount Crosby Road to enhance the safety of these road related areas. This includes: pedestrian access to the Moggill District Sports Park; safe pedestrian travel between the Bolton Clarke Fairview residential aged-care facility and the Pullenvale Marketplace; delivering pedestrian safety from Vyner Street to Grandview Road at Pullenvale and the Bellbowrie Community Church between the outbound Sugars Road bus stop and Bellbowrie Shopping Plaza; improving pedestrian safety at the Sugars, Moggill and Lather roads intersection; and safe pedestrian infrastructure along Mount Crosby Road at Anstead.

Unfortunately, in my electorate of Moggill there have been too many near misses and even tragic deaths involving cyclists and pedestrians, including the death of 25-year-old musician Richard Pollett as he cycled along Moggill Road in 2011. This state Labor government, which is regularly supported by the Greens political party, continues to ignore space for Cycling Brisbane and the Brisbane West Bike Users Group with respect to cyclist safety, particularly in the western suburbs of Brisbane. There has been a lot of talk by the Labor government but no practical action over many years. I note that on Monday of this week a man in his 20s had to be taken to the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital after a vehicle and pedestrian collision in Kenmore.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Dr ROWAN: I hear the interjections from the former minister for transport, who did nothing for road safety in the western suburbs of Brisbane let alone for cyclists, particularly cyclists on Moggill Road. There have been fatalities in relation to cyclists on Moggill Road, and there has been a failure to progress any solutions for cyclists' safety and road safety under the former minister. We can only hope that the new minister takes some action and learns from the mistakes that were made by the former minister. On page 2 of this legislation's explanatory notes it states—

... Queensland's transport related legislation must continually evolve to: accommodate changing risk profiles within the community; cater for the adoption of new and emerging technologies; and ensure that enforcement authorities have appropriate powers and can impose meaningful sanctions to positively impact behaviour change to improve safety for all users of roads and road-related areas.

When it comes to improving safety for all users of roads and road related areas, as I have said, it has been very disappointing that the Labor state government has not acted on these matters over a long period of time. There are still unresolved issues relating to the Our Lady of the Rosary School at Kenmore. The Department of Transport and Main Roads has taken some action, but there is still a lot more that needs to be done at that intersection to ensure the safety of not only school students but also the wider public. I have written to the new Minister for Transport and Main Roads about that. I acknowledge the member for Aspley in his new role in relation to that, and I wish him success in his new endeavours. I would urge him to look at that correspondence and particularly what it means for safety.

Finally, in concluding my contribution today I want to thank and acknowledge all stakeholders who contributed to the Transport and Resources Committee's consideration of this legislation as well as all committee members from both sides of the House. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the deputy chair, the LNP member for Gregory, as well as the members for Toowoomba North and Callide for their work in scrutinising this legislation.