



Speech By **Bart Mellish**

MEMBER FOR ASPLEY

Record of Proceedings, 11 December 2025

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

E-Mobility Safety, Parliamentary Inquiry

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (2.18 pm): I miss when we had a tourism minister in this House who actually advocated for the industry and backed in jobs in Far North Queensland in particular. I am a big fan of the member for Cairns.

When it comes to cancelling pill testing, this government is quick to act. When it comes to cancelling wind farms, this government is even quicker to act. When it comes to saving lives on our roads and footpaths, this government is sitting on its hands. Last month the government brought forward the end date of the sugar bioenergy opportunities inquiry by three months, yet when it comes to the e-mobility inquiry this government has voted in this House again and again against bringing forward the inquiry end date. They even voted in this chamber against our proposal to have interim measures before Christmas.

They are happy to act on their own ideological issues, but it is tumbleweeds when it comes to community safety on our streets. We have had 13 accidents requiring hospitalisation in just one night over the weekend; 14 deaths so far this year, with three young boys killed in a matter of months; a 150 per cent increase in injuries presenting to our hospital emergency departments, already buckling under record ambulance ramping; health experts warning of the increasing rates of severe head trauma; and motoring and insurance industry leaders who have time and time again pointed to the increased chaos fuelled by illegal devices on our roads—and we have a government that sits on its hands.

This Premier promised that he would govern with stability. He promised that he would listen to the experts. The Premier's leadership on e-mobility is as unstable as an e-scooter ride on a Story Bridge footpath. Experts are lining up to lay out the harsh reality of this unfolding crisis. The committee has received more than 1,000 submissions and heard from more than 50 witnesses appearing before us. The committee has done the work. Now it is time to act. Five out of the six witness groups we heard from this week at our hearing we have actually already met with. We met with them months ago. This is the second time they have been in front of the committee. Even stakeholders are saying we are going round and round in circles. They all share one common message: act and act now, yet the desperate pleas from experts have been met with not only silence but also derision by this LNP government.

Reading from a 2 December *Courier-Mail* article about English cricketers breaking the law by riding e-scooters without helmets, the transport minister said, 'I don't want to see anyone bowled over on our streets—though, judging by recent form, the Poms seem to prefer getting themselves out.' That is further proof that this government is not taking this e-mobility crisis seriously. There have been 14 lives lost this year and they are making jokes—14 lives lost and this leadfooted transport minister, who posts videos of himself breaking the speed limit, is making puns.

My office is inundated by Queenslanders who are frightened and fed up. I know that my colleagues hear the same stories. This affects all Queenslanders. It affects vulnerable users like the elderly or those with vision impairment trying to navigate crowded footpaths. We know that everything

in this government that does not make for a slick sound bite for the Premier or helps a donor gets relegated to the low-priority pile. They tell us that this government is bogging down because this micromanaging Premier does not trust his ministers to make decisions. I would not trust this mob either, to be fair. When you have a government only concerned with their donor mates, important issues like this fall off the to-do pile.

(Time expired)