

Question on Notice

No. 1449

Asked on Tuesday, 30 August 2016

MS PEASE asked the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply (HON M BAILEY) —

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide an update on what the government is doing to ensure Bayside drivers are aware of the danger of driving whilst distracted?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Lytton for the question.

Driving while distracted is a challenge not only for Queensland, but for many jurisdictions both interstate and internationally.

The Palaszczuk Government is determined to reduce the heavy burden of road trauma on our communities. Last year, I launched the *Queensland Road Safety Strategy 2015–21 and Action Plan 2015–17*, which is a \$500 million investment over 57 initiatives. We're making strong progress with stakeholders, the community and industry.

Under the strategy and action plan, the government is committed to ensuring all drivers are aware of the dangers of driving while distracted, through legislation, enforcement, community engagement and campaigns.

Distracted drivers are a danger not only to themselves and their passengers but to other road users as well. Distraction and inattention along with speeding, drink and drug driving, failure to wear a seatbelt and driving while fatigued make up the 'Fatal Five'.

On 1 September 2015, the Palaszczuk Government introduced double demerit points for two or more mobile phone offences committed within one year to send a strong message to all motorists about the seriousness of this behaviour.

In 2015, we also launched the \$1.8 million Join the Drive to Save Lives campaigns of 'Are you driving blind?' and 'Are you as dangerous as a drunk driver?' to reduce illegal mobile phone use by highlighting the risks and consequences of driving distracted and offering alternatives to texting and driving, including a quit-style program to help kick the habit.

Driver distraction was a key theme at this year's statewide Road Safety Week. More than 200 events were held across the state, hosted not only by my department, but also community groups, workplaces and individuals. The week began on Monday 22 August 2016 with a focus on distractions, including key messages, packs of information and encouragement for everyone to speak up for road safety and take action against distraction.

The Department of Transport and Main Road's *Join the Drive to Save Lives* social change program aims to reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries on our roads by moving to a more positive and empowering communication approach. It strives to give the community the tools and inspiration to do something positive about road safety.

Community members can be part of the Join the Drive on-line community, find out about the latest road safety initiatives and download material at www.jointhedrive.qld.gov.au. They can also share a message on the Join the Drive Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/JoinTheDrive>, which has over 117,000 followers and allows everyone to have their say on road safety.

The Join the Drive website includes a dedicated section about distraction, including a distractions quiz, a myth busting section, links to a Road Mode App to encourage people to silence incoming calls and texts while driving, and other tips and advice.

I know that the Member is a strong advocate for road safety, and I thank her for her efforts in continuing to raise this important issue in her local community.