

Question on Notice

No. 1171

Asked on 26 October 2022

MR L MILLAR ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise the number of fatalities that have occurred on roads within school zones (during school zone operational hours) and in roadwork sites (reported separately by financial year) for 2019 to 2022 (to date) where speed was a contributing factor?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Gregory for the question.

Speeding is one of the major causes of fatalities on Queensland roads. Speeding is defined as driving over the posted speed limit or at a speed that is inappropriate for the driving conditions such as rain, fog, traffic volume and traffic flow. Speeding is not safe in any circumstance.

Roadworks and school zones are some of the most complex road environments. They share similar characteristics, including congested road environments and high numbers of vulnerable road users in the zone. For these reasons, lowered speed limits apply at specific times during roadworks and around schools.

Between 1 July 2018 and 30 June 2022, there were no fatalities in Queensland's school zones during standard school zone hours of 7–9 am and 2–4 pm on school days, and we are determined to keep it that way. Our school children, school staff and parents deserve nothing less.

Between 1 July 2018 and 28 February 2022, there were, regrettably 10 persons requiring hospitalisation because of crashes involving speeding drivers or riders. We are fortunate these did not result in a fatality.

Between 1 July 2018 and 30 June 2022, there have been three fatalities at roadwork sites on Queensland roads due to crashes involving speeding drivers, or riders, one each in the financial years 2019–20, 2020–21 and 2021–22. Between 1 July 2018 and 28 February 2022, there were a further nine persons requiring hospitalisation due to crashes involving speeding drivers or riders at roadworks sites. Our road workers deserve to go home safe from work every single day.

Any number of speeding related crashes at roadwork sites and school zones is too high. Queensland's vision—as set out in the *Queensland Road Safety Strategy 2022–31*—is to have zero serious road trauma by 2050. To help achieve this goal, the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is currently progressing the Roadways Behaviour Monitoring System pilot program. This is a world first road safety initiative utilising lightweight technology, capable of speed enforcement in school zones and roadworks, which have been challenging environments for existing speed enforcement methods. More information about the pilot is available on TMR's website at www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Safety/Road-safety/Speed-camera-signs-pilot-in-school-zones-and-roadworks.

I am sure the Member would support measures that discourage speeding given we saw 75 deaths on Queensland roads from speeding last year.