




Speech By
Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR THEODORE

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**TRANSPORT LEGISLATION (ROAD SAFETY AND OTHER MATTERS)
AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (11.23 am): I too rise to make a contribution to the Transport Legislation (Road Safety and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2022. From the outset I would like to express my deep-seated gratitude to all of our police officers, ambulance officers, emergency service personnel, fire and first responders who turn up to these accidents. One of my old friends, Gavin White, used to be a fire and he witnessed many scenes over the years. It certainly takes a very strong individual to do that type of work. I want to put on the record my thanks to those individuals for the service they give.

Road safety is obviously one of the most important aspects of modern society. When it comes to driving a vehicle it is a privilege. It is not a right; it is a privilege. We have to remember that. It is a privilege the state gives to individuals. It is a privilege to remember the rights of other motorists out there on the streets. I want to speak about some of the discussions we have had in our local Lions Club with a QPS officer. This has more to do with courtesy when it comes to using the road. This would make some real differences. These are the types of programs that potentially could receive some funding, and it relates to merging at speed.

One of the biggest problems we see on the M1 motorway is that every time you come up close to an interchange there is a domino effect and traffic slows down. The problem is that people are not merging properly. There is a twofold issue: vehicles coming onto the motorway and vehicles already on the motorway not allowing people to merge. For some reason we have an attitude that we are not going to let in the car in front of us: we are going to make them go behind us. It is going to take two seconds off our driving trip. Queenslanders do need to change that attitude.

One of the other aspects we discussed was vehicles sitting in the far right-hand lane. On the M1 motorway that lane is really designed for emergency vehicles. Many of my residents and I have expressed concern about the number of vehicles that just sit in the right-hand lane for upwards of 10 to 15 minutes. That leads to another dilemma which was highlighted by our local police officers and should also be mentioned in any education programs in our schools: driving ahead of where you want to go. All too often we see accidents at major interchanges as a result of vehicles cutting across from the far right-hand lane all the way to the left-hand lane to exit. They are crossing four lanes of traffic within a very short distance and time, which causes other vehicles to slam their brakes on to avoid them. Unfortunately, more often than not there are collisions because of that attitude. We need to make sure that drivers are prepared to drive ahead of time, to make sure they are using exits appropriately and getting into the left-hand lanes so they do not cut across all of these vehicles.

That is something which education programs in schools need to address, and I thank my local schools for the programs they run in their areas. Upper Coomera State College has had very gory and graphic, you could say, educational programs to scare students about the realities of car accidents. The issue I have is that there is still a group of individuals who ignore the messages, and it is those

individuals we need to capture. It is those students who are ignoring the signs. For example, as in all electorates we have hooning in our areas, speeding down local streets potentially putting themselves and other motorists at risk. These programs need to address and highlight the danger of their activities.

I say to the minister that we need to really push these programs with students. We also need to get in earlier so it is drummed into them long before they get their licence. You could say that it is a reminder for parents too. I know it would drive some parents crazy to have a back-seat driver saying, 'Mum, you're speeding. You shouldn't be speeding, Mum.' 'Dad, don't touch your mobile phone.' All too often there are accidents as a result of people using their mobile phones.

One aspect we do not seem to discuss is technology in vehicles. As technology becomes more prevalent in vehicles, it is becoming more of a distraction to drivers with the head-up displays and central controls where you select Apple CarPlay et cetera. That is a distraction. When I am driving my Hilux, I see too many people in sedans using these displays which means they are taking their minds off the road. I understand vehicles are safer because they have automatic braking for crash avoidance, but we still need to make sure that people are concentrating on the road and are not being distracted by technology.

When we look at road safety upgrades, we also need to look at the areas around those upgrades. One example is Tamborine Oxenford Road and Michigan Drive. I have asked the minister to consider a turn-right lane into Georgina Street because that would make it safer for motorists. That street is on a bit of a blind corner, right beside the proposed upgrade of Tamborine Oxenford Road. This is not a big ask. We are just asking for a safe turn-right lane into that road which would be welcomed by all motorists who use that area.

There is another road that I have asked the minister about many times. We need to put a safe turn-left lane at Henri Robert Drive. That should be put on the agenda when it comes to safer roads because when you are coming from the Canungra direction, you are going across the crest of a hill and you do not get sufficient time to avoid a vehicle turning left into Henri Robert Drive. That road is on the back of quite a decent crest and many trucks use that road. I ask the department and the minister to please consider all of the communication I give them and put that on the road safety program.

I would like to talk about mobility scooters and the limit of 10 kilometres per hour on pathways. Mobility scooters are very important for the elderly people, and I have a lot of elderly residents in my electorate.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr BOOTHMAN: I hear a lot of quips from the member for Logan, who obviously has no respect for road safety in this state. He carries on, but I am actually asking for some decent road upgrades which could potentially save the lives of many of my residents in the future as more and more cars are on my local roads.

I welcome the increase in weight limits of mobility scooters. A lot of elderly residents use them to go to the shopping centres and bring their goods home. Therefore, this is very important for them.