

House of Assembly
15 October 2009

**CRIMINAL LAW (CLAMPING, IMPOUNDING AND FORFEITURE OF VEHICLES)
(MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL**

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 15 July 2009. Page 3562.)

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (17:25): I, too, rise to support this bill. My property where I live is on the Dukes Highway, and far too often we see what happens when there is a bit of inattention on the roads. I know it is not hoon driving as such a lot of the time but, when you see the results of high speed crashes at 110km/h each way and trucks that have burned—and, sadly, drivers that are burnt to death in the remains of their truck—it really brings back to you what can happen on the road. It is not just truck drivers; I have been at accident scenes where cars have gone underneath trucks, and there is no hope of survival when that happens.

However, getting back to hoon driving in the towns, I know there are areas in my electorate that are favourite places. One of those is Sturt Reserve at Murray Bridge; a few people get down there by the river and think they will have a bit of fun, put a few black marks on the road. The police get down there reasonably often and catch a few, but they would have to be down there full time to police it 110 per cent.

I support this bill going forward because all too often you read in the paper or hear about someone you know—a friend's child or grandchild—who has been driving a vehicle or been a passenger in a vehicle, just been out having a bit of fun—or so they thought. Speeding, a bit of irrational behaviour on the road, and it all ends in tears. Far too often I have seen the news reports with schoolmates of someone who has died on the road, and the flowers and wreaths placed on the Stobie pole or marker at the side of the road. Far too often on country roads you see white crosses and flowers marking the spot where people have lost a loved one or loved ones.

It is so sad that people have thrown their lives away by making poor decisions. Sometimes it happens because people get together and there is peer group pressure—we were all young once—and they think it is a bit of a laugh to get out there and drive fast. However when the results are as stark as maiming or even death it is very tragic for communities.

I am the father of a couple of young boys, and they have a few years to go before they will be able to drive on the road as licensed drivers, but the more we can do to keep our people alive the better. Mind you, my sons have the benefit of learning to drive at an early age on the farm. My eldest is only eight, but he has his own little motorbike and he roars around, and they sit on your lap steering down the tracks or around the paddocks.

Mr Venning: He's not hooning, is he?

Mr PEDERICK: He is not hooning at all; he is very careful. It will be the second son that I will have to watch. Be that as it may, this is very serious legislation, even if it says only one life—although I think it will save a lot more—or save some of the maiming and destruction that occurs on our roads. The end result of a lot of these accidents is that families get torn apart; parents fall apart because of the loss of their young ones. I commend the bill, and I look forward to its speedy passage through the house.