

SPEECH

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ROAD TRAFFIC (TRAFFIC SPEED ANALYSERS) AMENDMENT BILL

Mr BROCK (Frome) (10:56): I also would like to speak on this bill. As the member for Chaffey has already indicated, I am very concerned about road safety and the loss of lives across all of South Australia. However, regional South Australia seems to be identified once or twice a year when the South Australia Police come from Adelaide and do a blitz in the regional areas.

I will use my location as an example. Some months ago there was a large contingent coming in. Like the member for Chaffey and the member for Fisher, I am concerned about safety and the loss of lives, but these police come in large droves and then set up speed cameras and so forth in locations that are just inside the 110 zone where it drops to 80 or 60 or as the member for Chaffey has indicated going from 60 to 110. The locations where they set up are not dangerous locations, but if they are speeding they need to pay the fine.

The issue is presence. You see this large number of police come in once or twice a year and it is not building good relations for the local communities, as the member for Chaffey has already indicated. Our local police in our regions have a good relationship out there and people respect those local constables, but the issue is that suddenly we have five or 10 police cars come in for a great blitz and people know that they are going to get fined, but then they do not come back again for a long period of time.

I think a better idea would be to have police present all the time. Police just driving around is a deterrent. This is an idea for saving lives and reducing the opportunity for people to speed, not for what appears to be a revenue-raising trip each time. In locations such as schools, a police car there will be a deterrent. It is deterring people from speeding and it is creating public awareness.

The other issue is that the Minister for Road Safety has put out a discussion paper about moving towards zero fatalities. I congratulate the Minister for Road Safety for doing that but that is one idea. The issue of police just coming in droves does not reduce the danger on the roads because those places are set up within the city centres. The fatalities, the damage and the accidents are basically on the open roads.

The police should be out there patrolling those roads even, as I said earlier, if they are just there as a presence. It acts as a reminder because if suddenly I am doing 115 or 120, I will slow down, but if I am speeding and I get picked up by a police car, that is fine.

Safety programs are very, very important. I also believe that our education system, through the schools and especially the secondary schools, should be more open and get them back into the schools. In my role currently as President of the Rotary Club of Port Pirie, we have what we call a Rotary Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA) program.

Mr Whetstone: It is a good program.

Mr BROCK: It is an excellent program. We go out to the high schools. We have a whole day out there. We get the students and we have a trained driver showing the difference in the speeds and the stopping spaces. That does more good than all of a sudden a large contingent of police coming in and giving the fear tactic.

The RYDA program is one of those things that is making those young kids more aware of the dangers of the speed of the high-powered vehicle. I have already indicated to the minister that we have a speed limit of 100 km/h on the roads, but we have vehicles that anybody can get hold of that have the capacity to do over 200 km/h. Just recently, a person was booked for doing in excess of 200 km/h.

Mr Whetstone: 203.

Mr BROCK: The member for Chaffey has just indicated 203. If our road speed limit is 110 km/h, I see no reason why people have to have a car that can do 200 km/h. I certainly have concerns with this and I think that the South Australia Police, no matter where they are, should be there for prevention, not for collecting money.