



Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Our ref: PET 35591

Your ref: A527597

27 FEB 2020

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition 3189-19, lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Ted Sorensen MP, Member for Hervey Bay on 4 February 2020 about Luke's Law.

Every death or serious injury on the road is one too many and the Palaszczuk Government remains committed to reducing the road toll. My thoughts and condolences are with the family and friends of Luke Harris.

I acknowledge the petitioner's request to change transport legislation to include highways and motorways in the rules which prohibits drivers from stopping on the right-hand side of a freeway.

Section 177 of the Transport Operations (Road Use Management - Road Rules) Regulation 2009 (the Queensland Road Rules) provides that a driver must not stop on a freeway, unless the driver stops in an emergency stopping lane. A freeway is defined as a length of road to which a freeway sign applies.

Under section 178 of the Queensland Road Rules, a driver must not stop in an emergency stopping lane unless the condition of the driver, passenger, the driver's vehicle or another factor makes it necessary or desirable for the driver to stop in the interests of safety. The driver must not stop for longer than is necessary in the circumstances.

While I acknowledge the petitioners request, the current legislation already prohibits a driver from stopping on the right-hand side of the Bruce Highway where the incident occurred. This is because the road is signed with a 'Start Motorway' sign which constitutes the start of a freeway. For this reason, the current legislation is considered sufficient.

Importantly, the Queensland Road Rules also contains other rules about stopping on other roads and giving way when moving off from one part of a road to another. Further, the *Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995* requires drivers to drive with due care and attention for others on the road. These rules, if adhered to, provide a safe road network for all road users.

The Palaszczuk Government recognises that ongoing driver education of the road rules is important to improving road safety, and has developed the Queensland Road Rules Communications Action Plan (the Plan) to better educate and inform the public about the road rules and sharing the road safely.

The Plan focusses on key road rule topics and uses a variety of media to communicate this information, such as the internet, publications and social media. Road rule information is promoted, and public engagement is encouraged, through regular posts on the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) and StreetSmarts Facebook pages. TMR has included the rules for safely stopping on freeways and using emergency stopping lanes in the Plan for future social media engagement.

TMR also educates new drivers about the risks associated with stopping on high-speed roads. This information is included in PrePL, TMR's new online learning and assessment program for obtaining a learner licence. This information is also published on the TMR website at www.tmr.qld.gov.au/breakdownsafety.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'M' followed by a long horizontal stroke and a sharp downward-pointing tail.

MARK BAILEY MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads