




Speech By  
**Mark Boothman**

**MEMBER FOR THEODORE**

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### **HEAVY VEHICLE NATIONAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (2.50 pm): I rise to speak on the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2018. Every member in this House understands that road transport is a key cornerstone of our economy. The ability to move goods around efficiently and effectively is critical for economic development in the beautiful state of Queensland.

Like many members in this chamber, I have a fair few truck owner-drivers in my electorate. One I befriended many years ago, and who is now not in my electorate due to the redistribution, is a very vocal individual when it comes to the road transport industry. The member for Scenic Rim would know him. His name is Ken Wilkie. He is a proud owner-operator. He has been in the industry for the vast majority of his life. He is the proud owner of a 4800 Western Star. It was his dream and it is his baby. I could say that he almost loves it as much as his wife.

Ken took me for a drive in his truck. We drove along the M1 motorway, through Brisbane and up the Bruce Highway. Being in a heavy vehicle such as that was certainly an interesting experience. A bugbear for truck drivers is the inconsideration of motorists who pull in front of them while they have a full load on. They are pulling 50 tonnes and if a car quickly weaves in front of them, especially when they are pulling up at the traffic lights, it is pretty hard to stop. All Ken asks is for other drivers to respect his right to be on the road as much theirs.

As the member for Condamine said, road safety is everybody's responsibility. That is what the truck drivers are also saying. Ken has been an active member of the National Road Freighters Association for many years. I am not 100 per cent sure about this, but I believe he was a past president of the association. He has had a fair few gripes to me over the years. One of his gripes was exactly what the member for Gregory was saying in relation to truck pull-up areas. In recent times many grey nomads are pulling in there. The problem is that if a truck driver is on their logbook and they are literally at the end of their time period they have to find a place to pull over and if there are caravans and Winnebagos stuck in these truck stops it makes it a serious hassle for them as they like to stay nice and straight when they pull in so they can pull straight out when they leave.

Another of Ken's bugbears is a driver going from one jurisdiction to another is under different regulations and laws in each jurisdiction. Having a conformity of approach does make it easier for the driver. The member for Gregory brought up the logbooks. Ken and many other drivers have told me that simple mistakes can be made. The spelling of some towns in Western Queensland or the main thoroughfare areas on the eastern seaboard can be a little bit difficult. They ask for a bit of understanding when it comes to some of these more difficult town names.

Truck drivers want to come home safely to their families. They want to uphold the law. There are individuals who are rogue operators and unfortunately everybody gets tarnished with the same brush. The majority of truck drivers do the right thing. We should never forget that. We should always understand that without trucks Australia stops. That is true. I ask that the minister listen to the member for Gregory, especially in relation to the stopping zones. They are getting clogged up with grey nomads. A sign directing them to go to the local caravan park would suffice. I will leave my contribution at that.