



**SEATH HOLSWICH MP STATE MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS**

## **SPEECH IN PARLIAMENT**

18<sup>th</sup> April 2013

### **ROAD SAFETY**

Road safety is an issue that touches all Queenslanders and it is an issue that every individual Queenslanders has a responsibility to take seriously. So far this year, the number of people who have lost their lives on Queensland roads is well up compared to the number the same time last year. It seems that the message around road safety and the Fatal Five is just not getting through.

It is with this in mind that the member for Kallangur and I have been working closely with officers from the Pine Rivers police district to plan a week of road safety initiatives in the last week of May, culminating on Fatality Free Friday on Friday, 31 May. During that week we are organising a number of key events to drive home the road safety message to the residents of Pine Rivers and Kallangur.

One of the marquee events of the week will be the launch of the Pine Rivers and Kallangur hoon watch programs. This program, modelled on the highly successful program that was first run a number of years ago by the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and Commonwealth Games, will be launched by the Minister for Police and Community Safety separately in both our electorates in events that will involve local Neighbourhood Watch groups, schools, police, business owners and residents.

The aim of this program is twofold: firstly, to provide a means for community members to do in a hoon, providing valuable information that our police can use to target hooning behaviour and catch those who are responsible for hooning acts; and, secondly, this is an important initiative to educate the community on what actually constitutes hooning behaviour.

We will be distributing information to our entire electorates and this program will be backed up with enforcement by our local police commands in the weeks following the launch. Also that week, the Pine Rivers police district is coordinating a Fatality Free Friday business lunch, where guests will hear from three speakers who each have had involvement in fatal traffic accidents. I am sure that will be a powerful event.

As I alluded in my speech on the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Motor Vehicle Impoundment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill earlier this week, we will also be convening a roundtable discussion between local car enthusiasts and police representatives to help facilitate a stronger working relationship and clear lines of communication between car enthusiasts and police.

Following our highly effective Christmas road safety launch last year, where the median strip along Gympie Road at Lawnton was covered with 258 white crosses representing every person who had died on Queensland roads to that day in 2012, we will again be looking to shock locals into action through a visual display on Fatality Free Friday. There will also be other road safety messages

delivered throughout the week via local media to local schools, local railway stations and local shopping centres.

Road safety is everyone's responsibility and I urge all Pine Rivers residents to take the issue of road safety seriously and to always avoid the Fatal Five on our roads: speeding, drink and drug driving, failing to wear a seatbelt, driving while fatigued, and distraction and inattention. During the last week of May, the member for Kallangur and I will be doing our bit to spread the road safety message to our electorates.