

**ROAD TRAFFIC LEGISLATION AMENDMENT
(INFRINGEMENT MANAGEMENT REFORM) BILL 2024**

Third Reading

MR D.R. MICHAEL (Balcatta — Minister for Road Safety) [12.39 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a third time.

I wish to thank a few people. During yesterday's second reading debate, contributions were made by the members for Hillarys and Burns Beach. I thank both of them for their contributions and their support of the bill. In particular, I thank the Leader of the Opposition. I did not disagree with a lot of what he said during his second reading contribution when he spoke about what the Parliament and the community can do to deal with road safety issues. Obviously, this bill is one of them. Last night's consideration in detail was quite constructive. We went through some of the issues and what this bill will do.

I remind the house that if we were to synthesise this bill into a few key topics, the first would be the massive transformation of a new system of infringement management in Western Australia. It will move across from the Western Australia Police Force to the Department of Transport. Work has been ongoing to get that system right. We hope and expect that that system will be up and running on 1 July when this legislation takes effect. We discussed some of those key transition issues during consideration in detail last night. The old system managed by the WA Police Force is very much on its last legs. Moving from that system to a new system managed by the Department of Transport will provide a much better experience for people who unfortunately receive an infringement. Again, we hope that fewer and fewer Western Australians will need this service because they increasingly continue to do the right thing on the road. I hope that those who may not do the right thing from time to time improve their behaviour.

I think another road tragedy occurred today—one involving a motorcycle. We all need to be aware of the decisions that we and our family members make when we are on the roads. We are really proud of the work that we have done to upgrade local and state roads around Western Australia, but a lot of the deaths and serious injuries that occur on our roads are a result of driver behaviour. A lot of incidents can be prevented through a range of things, such as not drink driving, not speeding, keeping to the speed limit and looking at the conditions. For instance, if it is dusty, foggy or wet, people need to ensure they drive to the conditions. Drivers should not get distracted and not use their mobile phones while driving. There is a temptation to do so; I have that temptation. These days, mobile phones can be connected to most cars so we do not need to look at or touch our mobile phones. People get killed on the roads as a result of touching their mobile phones. Like all of us, that does not go through our heads when we are tempted to touch our mobile phones. I feel numb when I see the reports of people who have been killed on our roads.

Again, this is an important piece of legislation. The modernisation of the infringement system by the Department of Transport will allow people who unfortunately receive an infringement notice—I hope they do not—to either extend the payment date by a month or, as we discussed last night during consideration in detail, elect to enter into an instalment plan with the Department of Transport rather than suffering from increased costs, fines and fees and the indignity of the fine punted up to the Fines Enforcement Registry, which occurs now.

As we discussed yesterday, we will allow for those new technologies to come in. The procurement of the regional road safety trailers from the Road Safety Commission closed yesterday. The technology associated with those new trailers will be able to detect people not wearing seatbelts and using mobile phones, along with point-to-point speed cameras. They can be deployed in our neighbourhoods and on regional roads on which incidents of people being killed and seriously injured in crashes have occurred.

I thank the opposition and all members in this place for their support of this legislation and for their continued support for road safety in Western Australia. I commend the bill to the house.

MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Leader of the Opposition) [12.44 pm]: I would like to make a brief contribution to the third reading of this important bill. As the minister said, we concluded consideration in detail last night against the backdrop of some rowdy celebrations in the courtyard. As always, I would like to put on record my thanks to the advisers for giving the best advice they could. They served their role on behalf of the state throughout the proceedings.

I also wish to put on record the support of the opposition for the Road Traffic Legislation (Infringement Management Reform) Bill 2024. We understand the need to ensure that the road toll, which is such a blight on the community, is reduced. This bill could be an important deterrent to people who do not do the right thing, including using mobile phones, not wearing seatbelts, speeding et cetera. The staggering number of incidents that were detected during the trial period indicates that there is still plenty of work to do.

We went through the intricate details of a number of matters, including the introduction of the legislation, which helped to explain the reasons some sections of the legislation were included and how the transition from the current system to the newer systems would occur, along with the fact that there may be new and evolving systems in the future as technology increases.

Before I conclude, I reiterate that the extra funding that will presumably come from some of those infringements being dealt with and the fines that would have been levied if those detections during the trial period were carried through and infringements issued were estimated by the Auditor General to be well over \$60 million. It is a very substantial increase in the road trauma trust account. We need to ensure that that money is spent wisely on the reduction in the road toll. In my view, the provision of an emergency helicopter in regional areas such as the goldfields and the midwest would be a tremendous way of using some of those funds.

I conclude by again putting on the record that we support the legislation. I thank the minister for his good grace as he went through the matters that we discussed last night and patiently provided me with the answers required.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and transmitted the Council.