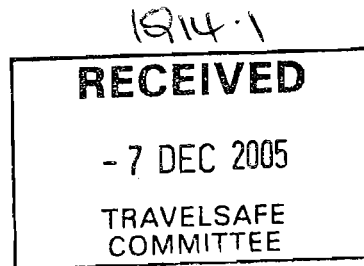


5 December 2005

The Research Director
Travelsafe Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000



Dear Sir,

RE: CONFISCATION OF VEHICLES BEING DRIVEN BY DISQUALIFIED DRIVERS

I wish to add my name to the list of people who support the concept that vehicles (other than stolen vehicles) being driven by disqualified drivers, to be impounded by the Police Force until the period of disqualification expires.

It is quite evident that Court imposed licence disqualification has not prevented a list of offenders from driving during the period of disqualification. Ray Martin on "A Current Affair" showed men coming out of Court with licence suspended as a penalty who have then promptly got into their car and driven away. Therefore one could reasonably ask the obvious question "where is the deterrent?" The only way to prevent this happening is by confiscating the person's vehicle. The suggestion that confiscation of the ignition key would be effective is rubbish – it is very easy to by-pass the ignition key to start a vehicle.

I wish to draw your attention to the **attached** article which appeared in the Courier Mail on the same day that I noticed the advertisement inserted by the Travelsafe Committee. This disqualified driver, a Trevor Tomkins, drove a car through a red light at an estimated speed of 220 kph and hit another car. This unfortunate innocent driver of the car Tomkins hit has had her life ruined. The simple act of confiscating Tomkins' car at the time of the Court imposing licence disqualification on a previous occasion (ten times in the last nine years) would have prevented the disaster from occurring.

I started to realize some time ago, that vehicle confiscation was the only way to prevent disqualified drivers from driving, but I couldn't see how I might help to change the situation. I hope that the usual Aussie apathy to politics, the law etc, does not apply in this instance and that you have overwhelming support for the principle of vehicle confiscation. You certainly have my vote.

Yours faithfully,

RODNEY JARVIS

Encl

'Off his face' serial speed demon sentenced to jail

Leanne Edmiston

A FORMER speedway driver who continually flouted the law by taking his passion for speed to public roads was yesterday jailed for the first time in seven years after causing an accident that left an innocent driver with brain injuries.

The District Court in Brisbane was told a police chase had ended only minutes before the 25-year-old disqualified driver, who later said he had been "off his face" on drugs at the time, drove through a red light at 220km/h to smash into the 50-year-old victim's car.

Trevor Douglas Tomkins, 25, pleaded guilty on Monday to one charge of dangerous operation of a motor vehicle with a circumstance of aggravation and one charge of dangerous operation of a motor vehicle while affected by an intoxicating substance causing grievous bodily harm.

Judge Brian Hoath said yesterday Tomkins had an "appalling" traffic history that included a jail term for three previous convictions for dangerous operation of a motor vehicle - all during police chases - as well as 10 convictions for disqualified driving, 10 for unlicensed driving and several speeding offences.

In one case, Tomkins was on bail for two serious offences in Brisbane and Maryborough when he sparked another police chase in Bundaberg, reaching speeds of 190km/h, driving on the wrong side of the road and ramming two police cars before his own car overturned.

On October 22, 2003, he was sentenced in the District Court in Brisbane to two years and 10 months' jail, suspended after serving two months for an operational period of three years. He had served 14 months' jail in presentence custody.

Judge Hoath said yesterday Tomkins was a "shamelessly recidivist offender" who engaged in "persistent, deliberately reckless and overwhelmingly dangerous driving".

The court was told Tomkins had been out of jail only four months when on April 18 last year he was involved in a 10km police chase at Bracken Ridge, in Brisbane's north, in which he reached speeds of 130km/h and went through three stop signs. He surrendered to police three days later and was released on bail.

About a month later, around midnight on May 20, police again tried to pull Tomkins over and a second chase ensued over 6km through the Bracken Ridge area. He went through two stop signs, three red lights and reached speeds of 100km/h in 50km/h zones.

Heavy traffic forced police to end the chase, but Tomkins accelerated away at 220km/h before driving through a red light and colliding with another car.

The court was told his 50-year-old victim, Asouaseval Tuua, spent seven days in intensive care and more than a month in hospital before being released to the



A SHATTERED FAMILY

LIVES changed forever after horror collision. Shiloh Tuua holds a photograph of her accident victim mother Asouaseval Tuua with husband Faatunga.



FLASHBACK ... a police officer escorts hit-run driver Trevor Tomkins to Sandgate Magistrate's Court last year.

HORROR TRAFFIC HISTORY

Between October 1996 and November 2005, Trevor Douglas Tomkins was found guilty of:

- Drink driving once
- Unlicensed driving 10 times
- Careless driving once
- Failing to remain at the scene of an accident once
- Speeding three times
- Driving without a seatbelt three times
- Disqualified driving 10 times
- Driving a vehicle in an unsafe condition once
- Driving without lights operating once
- Dangerous operation of a motor vehicle three times
- Driving without due care and attention once
- Leaving the scene of an accident three times
- Dangerous operation of a motor vehicle with circumstances of aggravation once
- Dangerous operation of a motor vehicle while adversely affected by an intoxicating substance once

brain injury rehabilitation unit. She suffers cognitive defects, depression and is still unable to work or drive.

When arrested three days later, Tomkins admitted to police that he was "off his face", having

taken heroin and methamphetamine (speed) half an hour before the accident.

The court was told Tomkins had been fascinated with cars since a young age, was involved in speedway racing and was a gifted

mechanic who shared his father's passion for rebuilding hot rods.

He started taking drugs when he was 14, after the separation of his parents, and had his first high-speed chase while affected by drugs at 15.

Judge Hoath sentenced Tomkins to four years' jail, to be served cumulatively with a two-year and eight months suspended sentence imposed in 2003. He was also disqualified from holding a driver's licence for five years.