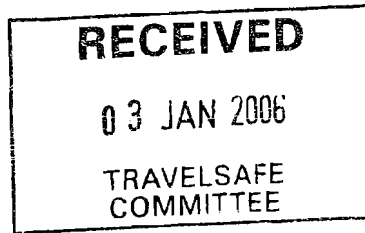


YOUR REFERENCE:

PLEASE QUOTE  
OUR REFERENCE:

A21A BS:DE



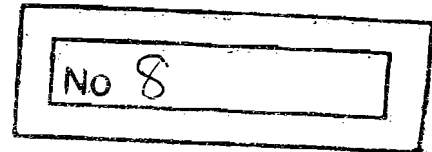
15 December 2005

## INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

Travelsafe Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE Q 4000

Atten. Jim Pearce

Dear Jim



### INQUIRY INTO VEHICLE IMPOUNDMENT FOR DRINK DRIVERS

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter dated 10 November, 2005.

This letter was forwarded to the Road Safety Committee for comment and response.

Our Committee Members includes many stakeholders across our community, e.g. RACQ, Department Main Roads, Queensland Transport, Police Department, Bus Companies, Taxi Companies, Emergency Services, Paraplegic & Quadriplegic Association and the Senior Citizens Association etc. The Committee has considered the initiatives as proposed by Travelsafe and have examined the implication/impact the initiatives have on the community and the enforcers, hence we offer the following responses.

- Generally, our Committee agrees (in principle), with the intent of vehicle impoundment and confiscation of ignition keys. This initiative, we believe could very well deter offenders from re-offending.
- Nevertheless, the Committee is concerned with the logistic and the implication this would have on the offender in the areas of alternative transport for the person after his/her vehicle has been impounded or keys confiscated, particularly if the person has been apprehended in a rural situation far from any help.
- Even in the city areas, where the road side and road shoulders are fairly limited, that vehicles apprehended may become a logistical problem for the police to handle.
- Further, if the offender is a female, young or alone, this could post a significant safety risk to this person in a dark and lonely night.

*"Tidy Towns Winner - Protection of the Environment Award, North Queensland Region 2005/06"*

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All official correspondence should be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer



The Committee considers the implication and logistical impact this initiative has is significant enough that the Committee would very much like them to be resolved before the Committee could fully be in support of it. We believe that there are probably many more implications that are not mentioned above that would require resolution as well.

Another option the Committee would like you to consider is the "engine immobiliser" method. A person will not be able to start his/her vehicle without having a breathalyser reading below the legal limit. This will stop the person from using the vehicle at its source instead of being apprehended while the driver is under the influence.

Any of these initiatives will impose significant costs to the offender and in particular, to people of low economic status. Nevertheless, the saving of lives may warrant such harsh measures.

The Committee thank you for the opportunity of being able to respond to your letter and hope that you will be able to take on board our comments and give the appropriate reply to our Committee in due course.

Yours sincerely



**BEN SUE**  
**A/DIRECTOR, INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES**