



Speech by

## Terry Rogers

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Hansard Wednesday, 8 March 2006

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### HOONING

**Mr ROGERS** (Redcliffe—Lib) (9.48 pm): The new year brought with it a resurgence of hooning on the Redcliffe peninsula. Anzac Avenue is a popular destination for motorists to go lapping, drag racing and to put their foot down. This is not a new issue in my electorate. In fact, it has been prevalent on the Redcliffe peninsula for as long as I can remember, as it is in many other localities. Police clocked a motorist in Redcliffe doing 173 kilometres per hour, more than double the legal speed limit. In December 2004 a mother from Margate was caught drag racing along Anzac Avenue at 144 kilometres per hour in a 60-kilometre per hour zone with three young children in the back seat of her hotted-up car. The other drag racer had his fiancée and 18-month-old child in the car, too.

Why people would drive at these outrageously high speeds is difficult to comprehend. What is more alarming is motorists endangering the lives of their own families and children for the sake of speed. I was approached by several new and long-time residents in January this year with complaints about noise and safety relating to the frequent hooning on Anzac Avenue, many of my constituents claiming the hoons' motivation was insufficient police presence. I agree that there is an issue with police staffing numbers, which is an ongoing concern in Redcliffe. There is simply not enough police to meet community demand. Police scarcity encourages hoons to play up and satisfies their need for speed.

Police are expected to prioritise homicide, domestic violence and robbery cases before hooning complaints. However, hooning is antisocial and dangerous behaviour. Hooning places the lives of other road users and pedestrians at risk; it is disruptive, harmful and selfish driving. We have a duty of care to make our roads safer. Nevertheless, I am pleased to announce that in response to the complaints I received I made representations which resulted in a police squad being established and it undertook a two-day campaign on 23 and 24 February targeting the eastern end of Anzac Avenue. Surprisingly, the hoons actually performed when the video camera came out.

This police squad seized 11 motor vehicles under the hooning laws. Other charges include drug possession, drink-driving and unlicensed driving. Unbelievably, the Labor candidate in Redcliffe is still not up to speed on local issues. Last week she claimed in the *Redcliffe and Bayside Herald* that speed cameras are used on Elizabeth Avenue to catch hoons. She is not even aware of where the hooning problem is. Elizabeth Avenue has not been mentioned. Unfortunately for her, her own government has proven that police numbers are the solution.

I am satisfied that the hardworking Redcliffe police officers are utilising resources and playing a proactive role in addressing the community's concerns about disruptive, dangerous and antisocial driving behaviour. However, I am not so convinced that the government has addressed police staffing shortages in Redcliffe and has not provided long-term solutions. Tough police action against hooning and dangerous driving is what our community needs to solve our hooning problem, but if we do not have adequate police numbers in Redcliffe we are working against the odds.

Time expired.