



Speech by

Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Hansard Wednesday, 24 February 2010

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Fine Defaulters

Hon. CR DICK (Greenslopes—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.54 am): On 1 January this year we commenced the start of several changes to the laws regarding the recovery of outstanding monies from long-term fine defaulters. Last sitting week, I provided the House with an update on progress of the 12-month wheel-clamping trial. I can now provide an update on the two-year seizure-and-sale trial that commenced at the same time.

This two-year trial targets long-term fine defaulters who owe more than \$1,000 and who refuse to accept responsibility for their unpaid fines. The initial phase of the trial is targeting those fine defaulters owing more than \$5,000 who were not eligible for the vehicle immobilisation trial. The State Penalties Enforcement Registry team uses information gathered through initial investigations conducted for wheel clamping to identify fine defaulters with assets suitable for seizure and sale. These investigations involved the investigators identifying correct contact details, addresses and assets of these fine defaulters. The team then initiated telephone contact with fine defaulters and outlined the potential enforcement action.

As at 17 February 2010, 30 individual debtors with debts valued at \$336,989 and 22 corporate debtors with debts valued at \$223,316 have been identified as suitable candidates for seizure and sale. SPER officers are now starting to work their way through this list. SPER has sent property seizure warning notifications to four individual debtors with debts totalling \$92,640 and one corporate debtor owing \$17,587. It is pleasing to note that the corporate debtor, whose debt related to a conviction for having an unsafe workplace, finalised their outstanding debt of more than \$17,000 after receiving the notice.

Also last week, seizure-and-sale warrants against two fine defaulters were issued to the Bailiffs Office of the Brisbane Magistrates Court. The two debtors have outstanding fines with a combined value of \$19,524. If these debtors continue to refuse to meet their obligations and pay their overdue fines, the government will seize assets, including real property, which may include people's homes. The Bligh government is serious about recovering monies from long-term fine defaulters and we will continue to use all measures available to get these people to pay their debts.