



Speech by

# Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Hansard Wednesday, 4 August 2010

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Fine Defaulters

**Hon. CR DICK** (Greenslopes—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.12 am): Last month I provided the community with an update on the Bligh government's progress in collecting unpaid fines from fine defaulters. I reported that the government's crackdown on fine defaulters was paying significant dividends, with a record total of \$166.4 million in unpaid fines collected in 2009-10. This was a new record and the highest annual collection total since the State Penalties Enforcement Registry was introduced by the Labor government 10 years ago. This total, which represents an increase of 15 per cent on the \$143.8 million recovered in 2008-09, was a direct result of our tough new laws that took effect on 1 January this year.

I am pleased to advise the House that our record collection of unpaid fines has continued in the new financial year. I have been advised this week by the State Penalties Enforcement Registry that a new record for monthly collections was set in July 2010. Our efforts to ensure that fine defaulters meet their obligations to society have reaped rewards, with a staggering \$16.6 million collected in July. This total represents a \$1 million increase on the previous monthly record of \$15.6 million set in March this year. Even more interesting is the fact that the figure for July 2010 is \$2.2 million higher than the \$14.4 million collected in July last year. That figure was a record in itself at the time, the first time that SPER collections had exceeded the \$14 million mark in a month.

This 15 per cent increase in the month-to-month comparison is further evidence that the Bligh government's new laws that took effect this year are working well. We make no apologies for our blitz on fine defaulters, particularly those who are long-term fine defaulters with debts of \$5,000 or more. The reason the government has adopted this approach is so that the money, rightfully owed to Queenslanders, can be invested back into services such as health, education and important state infrastructure. Queenslanders expect people who incur fines for breaking the law to do the right thing and pay their debt in full. That is the right thing to do.