




Speech By  
**Ros Bates**

**MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA**

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**POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES (MOTOR VEHICLE IMPOUNDMENT)  
AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (8.39 pm): Tonight I rise to make a short contribution to the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Motor Vehicle Impoundment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012. I congratulate the minister for introducing this bill because it took an LNP government, not a Labor government, to finally put the brakes on hoons. I am very glad that my colleague the member for Currumbin is in the House tonight, because it was she who started the first Hoon Watch on the Gold Coast. I think I was still a candidate at the time. It would have been in about 2008. Obviously the member for Currumbin generated great success with that program, because she got right up Paul Lucas's nose. On radio he publicly ridiculed the member for Currumbin at that time, saying that Hoon Watch was a complete and utter waste of time, that it would increase the paperwork for police and that nobody wanted it. Obviously, Paul Lucas had not spoken to any of the police on the Gold Coast, because every one of them wanted it.

I took up the torch from the member for Currumbin and, with the Mudgeeraba Action Group, started our own Hoon Watch, which was very successful. In fact, it was so successful that *A Current Affair* did a segment on hooning with the Mudgeeraba Action Group. That story was aired nationwide and we took calls from Geelong to Gladstone about our Hoon Watch program. Following on from the success of the Hoon Watch campaign in Currumbin, we had postcards made up. Many new members in this place have spoken about the involvement of their Neighbourhood Watch groups and their Police Community Consultative Committees. The Hoon Watch forms are getting to where they need to be in the electorates. The police will always tell you that the residents are their eyes and ears and we need them to be as actively involved as they possibly can be.

My Hoon Watch forms go out to the entire electorate not only through my Neighbourhood Watch groups, which drop the forms themselves, but also they are electronically available on my website and have been since 2009. As I said, it was an LNP opposition and now an LNP government that has been tough on crime and hooning in particular. To date in Mudgeeraba, we have impounded 32 cars. Residents in Mudgeeraba have had enough and we would love to see those cars impounded. Indeed, most of my residents would like to see them crushed. Trail bike hooning in national parks is also a problem. The Hoon Watch forms are effectively used to catch trail bike riders in the national parks, particularly in the Gold Coast hinterland. Even if the bikes do not have registration plates, the riders have very clear helmet colours and leather colours. That sort of information, along with the date, time, place, make and model is what the police need to prosecute hoons.

In the lead-up to the last election, in a last-ditch effort the Labor government finally conceded defeat to the LNP and our Hoon Watch programs and brought in the 13HOON hotline. As I said, places such as Mudgeeraba and Currumbin were miles ahead. Our Hoon Watch programs were up and running and they were very successful. Hoon Watch forms can be filled in electronically. On my website, you can upload pictures and videos of hoons. Not only will I be notified but also it will be sent directly to Policelink. In my electorate, it will also go to the Mudgeeraba Police Station. Yesterday, I

was driving to parliament when I pulled over and copied down the rego of a hoon at Reedy Creek. He slid sideways around my very busy roundabout. I pulled over and reported him to the local police. Every time it rains in my local area, I know the hoons will be out and about. In fact, they go down Golden Grove Boulevard, which is a great big dipper, and they drift all the way down. When you get up in the morning, you can see black rubber all down the road.

As I said, residents use the Hoon Watch form, which helps police to stamp out this wasteful and illegal activity. In my electorate some well-known hoon areas have been targeted very successfully. This is great legislation that will strike fear into the hearts of illegal hoons. For about five days in 2010, police stings at the corner of Beechmont Road and Nerang-Murwillumbah Road led to the impoundment of 13 cars. The police just backed up the driveway of somebody I knew and waited until the hoons came out at night-time and then picked them all up. The police did a great job. Obviously, the Nerang police cover the hinterland along the Nerang-Murwillumbah Road out to Advancetown and the New South Wales border. They have a very big area to cover, but they are pretty smart. They have used the police helicopter and its infrared camera to target hoons at night-time. They have caught a lot of them. In particular, the 'eye in the sky' has really helped to catch hoons in the act along Pine Creek Road in the Numinbah Valley. Hoons are organised. They have spotters and they drag race in the hinterland. On the M1, I travel from exit 73 to exit 87 and that is not much different, but at least now we have some temporary barriers on the upgrade of the M1 from exits 77 to 79 so we will slow them down. We will also be targeting a temporary speed camera for the duration of those roadworks.

I have a very active Police Community Consultative Committee. I have to brag and say it is probably one of the best and most effective PCCCs on the Gold Coast. All of the Neighbourhood Watch groups attend our meetings, which are held on the first Monday of every month at 5.30 at the Mudgeeraba Police Station. It is a really good way for elderly people in particular to report hooning, graffiti or whatever, but may be a bit scared of retribution. They can come to the safe environment of the PCCC to let the police know what is going on and then the police can take action.

I take this opportunity to recognise the hard work of my PCCC, particularly Earl Hinchey, the current chair for the Mudgeeraba PCCC. I thank him for his great work in reducing hooning in our area. I am pleased that Earl will be attending the Mackay summit for the Queensland Plan for Mudgeeraba. I take this opportunity to thank Senior Sergeant Mark Anderson, who is our fantastic local cop. He acts very quickly on any complaint in regard to hooning. I wish to thank some former police officers. I thank Doc from Coomera, who most people knew from the road traffic branch, and Ross Kouimanis. Ross Kouimanis was a local from Nerang. He was a senior constable who worked at Coomera with the traffic police for many years. He has since retired, but I believe that at the moment he is actively working somewhere else, doing something that he loves. Even during Labor's reign, Doc and Ross came with me to speak to the media about hooning and graffiti. Unfortunately, one of those men had to retire. I take my hat off to them both for the wonderful work that they did in my electorate.

Again, I congratulate Minister Dempsey. This is fantastic. It is what the police want to see. It is great that we have a Minister for Police who has been a policeman and knows exactly what he is doing. Again, I congratulate the minister. My electorate is very happy that this legislation has been introduced to the House.