




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Hooning

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.11 am): I commend the Queensland Police Service on its relentless efforts to keep the community safe by using some of the toughest laws in the nation when it comes to cracking down on hoons. The Queensland Police Service continues to roll out its multimodal approach to disrupting and dismantling hooning networks. With funding from the Palaszczuk government, the Queensland Police Service is also investing heavily in cutting-edge technologies and tactics to detect and prosecute hoons wherever they offend.

Since the beginning of the year the Queensland Police Service has issued almost 1,100 type 1 hooning offences, while recently Operation Uniform Elderberry was another example of the Queensland Police Service's efforts to crack down on hooning. The operation began in June and resulted in: almost 60 vehicles being impounded; more than 2,000 fines being issued; 219 drivers caught driving unlicensed; and 92 drivers testing positive for drug driving. This was a major, coordinated police operation and I want to again commend the Queensland Police Service for their relentless efforts. One instance that demonstrates the effectiveness of our hooning crackdown is that, just one day after police received an online complaint about hooning, the Queensland Police Service executed search warrants and subsequently seized two vehicles used for hooning. Not only was the driver charged and his licence confiscated but he was also sentenced to six months imprisonment.

Police advise that Queensland's tough anti-hooning laws have transformed the ability of police to apprehend and prosecute offenders. Under these laws passed by this government—also known as owner onus or driver deeming laws—the registered owner of a car must prove they were not the driver of the vehicle at the time of the offence or else they will face the consequences. This significant legal advantage for the Queensland Police Service sets Queensland apart amongst other Australian jurisdictions, and this government makes no apologies for this tough approach. Hooning is inherently dangerous and an offence which the community will not tolerate. That is why we are continuing to send a strong message to hoons. Anyone committing hoon related offences can expect significant fines and possible imprisonment of up to six months, as we heard in the example I outlined earlier. Hoons also face having their vehicles impounded, immobilised, forfeited or even destroyed.

I can announce that in coming weeks a soon to be concluded new agreement between the Queensland Police Service and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services will see forfeited hoon cars destroyed by firefighters undertaking road crash rescue practise. The message to hoons is clear: do the wrong thing and face the consequences. Hooning is dangerous and we will be relentless in our efforts against it.