




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) (9.52 am): Can I associate myself with the comments of the Minister for Industrial Relations about our government's outstanding support for public servants and the 98 per cent support from police officers for their EB. In the words of Ian Leavers, he thinks that the EB for police is the best in the Western world. That is further proof of our government's support for frontline police.

This morning in front of Parliament House we saw graphic evidence of what can happen to a car that is driven recklessly and dangerously. We saw how a car driven recklessly and dangerously can be ripped apart and left in pieces of jagged, torn metal. It was not a pretty sight, but it was very instructive on so many levels. First of all, what we saw this morning sends a clear warning to those who choose to drive dangerously. What happened this morning tells dangerous drivers who indulge in hooning that their car can be confiscated—confiscated and then used by firefighters of the Fire and Rescue Service to practise their skills at cutting open a vehicle to rescue those trapped inside.

This morning's demonstration also sends a message to all drivers to make better decisions on our roads because if you make poor decisions you can end up trapped in a smashed up vehicle. Importantly, today is a reminder of the price those who engage in illegal driving activity can pay. From now on, vehicles that the Queensland Police Service seize can be made available to the Fire and Rescue Service to hone their life-saving skills. We make no apologies for this approach. These are literally matters of life and death. Road safety is that important.

Each year hundreds of people lose their lives. That means that each year hundreds upon hundreds more people are left grieving the loss of a loved one. Road deaths are preventable and none are more preventable than those caused by hooning. That is why Queensland has among the toughest hooning laws in the nation, including the owner onus which means the owner of a vehicle caught hooning on camera will only escape punishment if they can prove that someone else was driving it. That is why we will employ every other measure and send the strongest warnings possible to those who hoon, who put their own lives at risk and who put the lives of others at risk. Life is too precious for it to be wasted by the stupidity and carelessness of hooners on our roads. The government will never relent when it comes to community safety and today the government will be introducing further legislation that targets those who willingly participate in hoon events and hooning more generally. The lives of those on our roads are worth it.