

**Question on Notice  
No. 722  
Asked on 10 May 2006**

MS MALE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (MS SPENCE) –

**QUESTION:**

Will she advise if any new initiatives are in place to crackdown on hooning and associated police pursuits?

**ANSWER:**

I thank the member for her question and note her interest in Queensland road safety.

Since the inception of the anti-hoon legislation up to and including 30 April 2006, a total of 2,648 vehicles have been confiscated by the Queensland Police Service for a period of 48 hours.

A total of 58 offenders have been detected on a second occasion committing a prescribed offence that is commonly referred to as a hoon offence. Under Queensland's anti-hoon laws, the commission of a second offence carries with it the penalty of vehicle confiscation for a period of up to three months.

To date four offenders have been detected committing a third prescribed offence. Commission of a third offence under this legislation carries with it the penalty of vehicle forfeiture.

It is of interest to also note that on 1 July 2000, the Queensland Police Service implemented an innovative state-wide traffic complaints system. This system acts as a management and intelligence system for the recording of complaints made by the public against road users.

Since inception of the Traffic Complaints database to 15 May 2006, a total of 26,000 complaints have been made by members of the community to the Queensland Police Service on various road safety related issues.

By enacting the *Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2006* on 23 May 2006, the Queensland Government has prepared the way for the creation of an evade police offence. These new laws are similar to the Beattie Government's hoon laws, providing police with the power to seek vehicle forfeiture orders from the courts. The court may order a first time offender's vehicle be impounded for up three months. A subsequent offence can result in the vehicle being forfeited to the State.

Police pursuits are a legitimate part of operational policing. However, pursuits require the management of two competing priorities: first, the community naturally expect that police operations do not unnecessarily endanger people, be they police, ordinary members of the community or offenders; on the other hand, the community also rightly expect police to apprehend offenders and to employ strategies that discourage potential offenders.

The Queensland Police Service is strongly committed to ensuring that it has pursuit policies in place that best address these two, often competing, priorities.

The Service is considering the recommendations of the Crime and Misconduct Commission's review of police pursuits, and this may lead to further reform of the Service's Pursuits Policy. This may incorporate new measures aimed at further cracking down on hooning behaviour which is often associated with police pursuits.