

**Question on Notice
No. 298
Asked on 7 March 2007**

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

QUESTION:

Will she advise how the new tougher hooning laws are improving safety on our streets and if there is any information available about the impact of the laws in the Ashgrove Electorate?

ANSWER:

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

Queensland's "anti-hoon legislation" commenced on 4 November 2002. From this time to 31 January 2007 a total of 3,285 vehicles have been confiscated for a first offence.

Over this same period, 74 offenders have been detected committing such offences on a second occasion.

The success of the Queensland "anti-hoon legislation" is reinforced by a low level of recidivism. Only four offenders to date have committed a third offence of this nature. This is because confiscations hit hooners where it hurts the most - by taking away their wheels. Once a motorist goes through the embarrassment and inconvenience of having their car impounded, they are unlikely to do it again.

To further strengthen these tough existing laws this Government has introduced new laws which allow for the impoundment of vehicles for repeat offences involving:

- unlicensed driving
- driving unregistered and uninsured (Compulsory Third Party) vehicle
- driving illegally modified vehicle
- driving under the influence of liquor or a drug.

These new laws will commence operation on 1 July 2007.

The Brisbane West Police District encompasses the Ashgrove electorate. Within the Brisbane West District, 18 vehicles have been confiscated for a first offence. To date no vehicles have been confiscated for a second or third offence within the Brisbane West Police District.

In the Brisbane West Police District and in other police districts across the State, police conduct intelligence-driven patrols in response to traffic issues such as hooning. These patrols use information gained through intelligence processes to predict the likelihood of hooning offences occurring at particular times and places. Police are then able to monitor the planned activities of groups of people who engage in hooning activities and officers regularly attend late-night service stations, fast food outlets, industrial and other areas to deter, detect and disperse vehicles owners preparing to participate in these activities.

The Queensland Police Service is committed to making our roads safer and reducing the road toll, and cracking down on hooning offences is just one part of this approach.