

Question on Notice
No. 605
Asked on 18 April 2007

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

QUESTION:

With reference to an article in the *Jimboomba Times* dated 21 March 2007 titled, 'It's time for action', relating to the amendments to the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act*–

- (1) How many bike impounds have occurred since the amendments were made under section 79 of the Act?
- (2) What, if any, training has the service provided to officers to educate them about the new changes and how they may be enforced?

ANSWER:

- (1) I have read the article referred to by the Member and I can advise I have recently written to the Trail Bike Action Group regarding their concerns.

With respect to police enforcement of the trail bike laws in the Logan and Beaudesert areas, the Logan Police District has a policing strategy structured upon a multi-agency approach which involves officers from the Beaudesert Shire Council and Logan City Council, as well as rangers from the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

Browns Plains, Jimboomba and Beaudesert Police Stations frequently undertake joint operations with officers from these other agencies to address trial bike complaint issues. The operations conducted by these local police officers are also supplemented by police from the Logan District Traffic Branch.

This Government also recognises there are legitimate riders who wish to use public space appropriately. As a result this Government has established a working group, led by the Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation, to identify public places for recreational trail bike riders to undertake their sport.

This working group will develop a policy framework to allow for the development of the sport and establish guide lines for land use and planning schemes. It will also help improve access to finding for the sport and will clarify the role of government agencies in dealing with the sport.

This Government's trail bike anti-hooning laws put noisy, selfish and irresponsible trail bike riders on notice, providing police with the powers to provide an effective response.

Since the introduction of the legislation on 21 July 2006, the Queensland Police Service has confiscated two trail bikes for a first offence. No second or third offences have as yet been detected. As the twelve month anniversary approaches it is clear that the laws are

acting as a deterrent to trail bike hoons, similar to the vehicle anti-hooning laws where confiscating the 'wheels' of hoons has a hard-hitting impact.

There has been a 15% reduction in trail bike-related public complaints in the last twelve months and this is further evidence that these tough new laws are having the desired deterrent effect.

- (2) The Queensland Police Service is widely acknowledged as one of the best jurisdictions in the country as a result of its professionalism and training. The Service is committed to ensuring police officers are effectively trained in all areas. The Queensland Police Service has delivered on-line information awareness packages and a two hour information workshop to police officers in order to heighten awareness of amendments to the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000*, including the new provisions of section 79 relating to the impounding of motorbikes. The training provided police officers with information on their powers upon attending, investigating and taking action regarding a motorbike noise complaint.