

Question on Notice
No. 957
Asked on 8 June 2007

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

QUESTION:

Will she advise of the effectiveness of the anti-hooning laws to date and what further deterrents are to be put in place to keep our communities safe from these reckless drivers?

ANSWER:

This Government has given police the power to combat 'hooning' behaviour on Queensland roads. The *Police Powers and Responsibilities and Another Act Amendment Act 2002* introduced tough measures to allow for vehicle confiscation against motorists apprehended for certain offences (type 1 offences) such as dangerous driving, careless driving, conducting speed trials, and making unnecessary noise or smoke by spinning the wheels of a vehicle.

These provisions empower police officers to confiscate vehicles used for 'hooning' for a period of 48 hours. In the case of persons who re-offend within three years, courts may order the impoundment of a vehicle for up to three months for a second offence, or its forfeiture for a third or subsequent offence.

In relation to enforcement of these 'anti-hooning' laws, which commenced operation in November 2002, I am advised 3,531 vehicles have been impounded as at 30 April 2007. As at the same date, the numbers of detections for repeat offences were as follows: 75 for a second offence, 4 for a third offence and 1 for a fourth offence.

These figures demonstrate the success and effectiveness of the 'anti-hooning' laws in deterring repeat offences.

This Government has recently stepped up its efforts to keep our communities safe from reckless drivers by introducing legislative amendments to allow for the impoundment of vehicles for repeat offences (type 2 offences) involving:

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

The operation of these new laws will initially be trialled in the North Coast and Southern Police Regions under a pilot program commencing on 1 July 2007.

The amendments provide for the impoundment for 48 hours of the vehicle of any driver who commits a relevant offence twice within three years. Any driver who commits a third relevant offence within the period will risk having his or her vehicle impounded for up to three months.

Persistent serial offenders, who have been found guilty of a relevant offence committed on at least four occasions within the period, will risk having their vehicle permanently forfeited to the State.

The 'anti-hooning' laws are designed to make Queensland roads safer and place reasonable checks on drivers who engage in 'hooning' or reckless behaviour which puts road users at risk or disturbs the peace.