

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 1678**  
**Asked on 11 November 2008**

MR DEMPSEY asked the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Sport (MS SPENCE)—

QUESTION:

With reference to owners/drivers who have committed repeat traffic or related offences—

How many vehicle impoundments and forfeiture of vehicles to the State were there in the Bundaberg region since the introduction of the law?

ANSWER:

This Government will not tolerate the dangerous attitudes of some drivers who flout the law and put the lives of others at risk on our roads.

In November 2002, the Government introduced ground breaking 'anti-hooning' laws which gave police additional powers to combat 'hooning' behaviour on Queensland roads. These laws allow for vehicle confiscation for 'type 1' offences involving dangerous driving, careless driving, conducting speed trials, and making unnecessary noise or smoke in circumstances that involve a speed trial, a race between motor vehicles, or a burn out.

Police can confiscate vehicles used for these offences for a period of 48 hours. If a person re-offends within three years, a court may order impoundment of a vehicle for up to three months for a second offence, or its forfeiture for a third or subsequent offence.

Under these laws, we have impounded more than 5000 vehicles. Since the implementation of the anti-hooning legislation in November 2002 and up to 31 October 2008, a total of 293 vehicles have been confiscated in Bundaberg District for a first offence, and 20 for a second offence. One offender from Bundaberg District has been detected committing four offences under the anti-hoon laws. This offender was convicted and fined \$2,500. The offender had his licence disqualified for a period of three months. One penalty was imposed for all offences, with vehicle forfeiture not legislatively possible due to the delay in sentencing.

In July 2007, the Government introduced new impoundment legislation allowing police to impound motor vehicles from drivers who repeatedly ignore the laws and drive unregistered and uninsured vehicles, drive whilst unlicensed or disqualified, drink drive over the high alcohol limit, fail to supply a specimen of breath or blood or drive illegally modified vehicles. These offences are referred to as 'type 2' offences.

Type 2 offences were identified in 28.9% of fatal crashes in Queensland during 2005-2006.

The legislation was trialled in North Coast and Southern Police Regions on 1 July 2007 and extended to South Eastern Region on 1 December 2007. The laws were introduced to the remainder of the state on 1 July 2008. The laws 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 are 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.

As at 31 October 2008, police have impounded 3287 motor vehicles for 48 hours state-wide. Since the commencement of the laws in the Bundaberg District, 165 motor vehicles have been impounded as the result of repeat offending. To date, no vehicles have been forfeited to the State for the Bundaberg District.

This Government makes no apology for getting tough on 'hoons' and doing what is necessary to ensure the safety of the responsible motoring public.