

**Question on Notice
No. 435
Asked on 11 March 2010**

MR JOHNSON asked the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services (MR ROBERTS)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Traffic Response Group (TRG), since 2002 (reported separately for each year)—

- (1) How many offences prescribed under anti-hooning laws were detected?
- (2) How many police officers were assigned to the TRG?
- (3) How many of those prescribed offences were detected by members of the TRG?

ANSWER:

The Bligh Government firmly believes that irresponsible and reckless drivers who ignore the road rules and endanger not only their lives, but the lives of other Queensland road users should be punished.

To this end, successive Labor Governments have ensured that Queensland has some of the toughest anti-hooning legislation in the country.

On 4 November 2002, 'Type 1' vehicle impoundment legislation came into effect. This legislation enables police to impound the vehicles of drivers who participate in street racing, speed trialling or 'burn outs' for 48 hours for a first or subsequent offence. In addition, the courts may impose a further sanction of impoundment for up to three months for a second offence, or forfeiture to the State for a third offence.

Our laws got even tougher on 1 July 2007, when the Government extended the impoundment legislation to enable a trial of legislating 'Type 2' offences. These offences include repeatedly driving unregistered and uninsured vehicles; driving without a licence or whilst disqualified; drink driving at or the high alcohol limit of 0.15 percent; failing to supply a specimen of breath/blood; driving while under 24-hour suspension; or driving illegally modified vehicles. From 1 July 2008, this legislation applied statewide.

Since the introduction of vehicle impoundment legislation in Queensland, police have impounded more than 18,900 vehicles for a 48-hour period, including 5,586 vehicles for 'Type 1' offences and 13,330 for 'Type 2' offences (as at 10 March 2010). Of these vehicles, 4,300 have been eligible for further application to a court for further sanction, including 240 vehicles for 'Type 1' offences and 4,100 vehicles for 'Type 2' offences.

Prior to the introduction of these laws, the State Traffic Task Force was increased by six positions in January 2002 to allow for additional enforcement of anti-social driving behaviour. One Sergeant and five Senior Constables/Constables initially formed this Traffic Response Group to specialise in 'anti-hooning' enforcement.

Following the implementation of 'Type 1' and 'Type 2' vehicle impoundment legislation, a core team of six officers within the State Traffic Task Force continues to specialise in 'anti-hooning' enforcement. The enforcement of anti-hooning legislation is also undertaken by other officers of the State Traffic Task Force, as well as traffic police and uniformed

officers throughout the State. This enforcement occurs during regular patrols and in targeted operations in locations identified through intelligence as having a high incidence of 'hooning' offences.

The following table provides a breakdown by year (and part-year where applicable) of the number of offences detected throughout Queensland under the 'anti-hooning' laws from 4 November 2002 to 17 March 2010.

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
158	863	670	746	784	1074	1484	1105	180

The following table provides an equivalent breakdown of the number of relevant offences detected by the Traffic Response Group and State Traffic Task Force.

2002	2003	2004	2005*	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
12	119	138	40	118	98	106	71	17

* During 2005, staff changes and training of new officers resulted in a temporary reduction in figures.