

Question on Notice
No. 594
Asked on 25 March 2010

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

QUESTION:

With reference to Question on Notice No. 53 of 2010 asked of the Minister for Transport on 10 February 2010—

- (1) Why was there a marked increase in traffic infringements in 2005-06?
- (2) Why has the income received from infringements remained around \$300,000 when there has been a decrease in the number of infringements?
- (3) Does this indicate set revenue to be raised by police through infringements?

ANSWER:

Road safety is a serious and concerning issue and the Bligh Government makes no apology for implementing and enforcing, through the Queensland Police Service, some of the country's toughest road safety legislation.

Sadly, many people continue to be killed or seriously injured on Queensland roads each year. In 2009, 331 people lost their lives in traffic-related incidents. This year, there have already been 62 fatalities on Queensland roads (as at midnight 12 April 2010). That is 62 deaths too many.

The towns of Kingaroy, Nanango, Yarraman and Blackbutt, located within the Nanango electorate, are serviced by officers of the Gympie Police District. In recent years, the Gympie District has made a concerted effort to address road safety in the South Burnett area. A significant aspect of this effort includes the ongoing trial of a South Burnett traffic officer based at Kingaroy. The trial of this dedicated position commenced in 2005 and coincides with an increase in traffic infringement notices in the area at that time.

The Queensland Police Service targets traffic infringements not to raise revenue, but to save lives. In 2007, five people lost their lives in the South Burnett. This reduced to one fatality in 2009, demonstrating the success of police efforts in targeting unlawful behaviour on our roads.

I am advised most of the traffic infringement notices issued in the South Burnett are for life-endangering offences in high-risk areas, as identified through traffic intelligence. As the Member would be aware, life-endangering offences incur a higher penalty than offences less likely to result in death or serious injury. As such, the revenue from traffic infringement notices across the state will fluctuate depending on the severity of infringements and the number of infringements issued for each type of offence.

The Member would also be aware that all revenue collected for penalties imposed for camera-detected offences in Queensland, excess to administrative costs, must be used for road safety education and awareness programs, road accident rehabilitation programs, safety improvements to State-controlled roads and for Queensland Health to support the

Red Cross Blood Bank, as prescribed by section 117 of the *Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995*.

Queensland police measure the success of traffic enforcement at the division and station levels by comparing reductions in crashes and traffic complaints. There are no quotas for traffic infringement notices in any Queensland police district, including Gympie.

The Gympie Police District will continue to enforce road rules in the South Burnett to ensure roads in the area remain safe for all road-users.