

Question on Notice
No. 1062
Asked on 17 June 2011

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister investigate funding to install registration recognition technology in all police vehicles for safety and efficiency?

ANSWER:

Research has shown that unlicensed and unregistered motorists are three times more likely to be involved in a traffic crash. This Government does not tolerate the dangerous attitudes of drivers who disobey the law and put the lives of other road users at risk. In the last few years, we have implemented a suite of road safety initiatives designed to catch offenders and keep our communities safe.

The Bligh Government recently announced the trial of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology to be used on Queensland roads. This technology is used to target and detect unlicensed and unregistered vehicles. It can also be used to identify stolen vehicles.

The Queensland Police Service (QPS) is currently undertaking a six-month Technical Evaluation of In-Vehicle Technology. This evaluation is using four independent systems suppliers who are fitting technology into four marked police vehicles. A number of In-Vehicle capabilities will be investigated, including mobile Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) systems.

The evaluation will provide the QPS with an opportunity to understand the best-practice usage of mobile ANPR, including in relation to the cost of purchasing, commissioning, de-commissioning and re-commissioning systems and any safety and efficiency improvements.

The findings of the evaluation will inform the QPS Mobile Services Business Case which will provide the QPS with a comprehensive set of options to deliver mobile ANPR technology.

The ANPR technology was deployed by the QPS over the Easter period for the first time to detect possible stolen vehicles, unregistered vehicles, and vehicles linked to unlicensed drivers. Offences detected as a direct result of intercepting these vehicles include: driving an unregistered or uninsured vehicle, driving whilst disqualified or unlicensed and among others, evading police.

Action may also be taken under the vehicle impoundment laws against motorists detected unlawfully driving unregistered vehicles. In July 2007 the Government introduced legislation allowing police to impound motor vehicles from drivers who repeatedly ignore the law by driving unregistered and uninsured vehicles, driving whilst unlicensed or disqualified, drink driving whilst over the high alcohol limit (0.15%), failing to supply a

specimen of breath or blood, or driving illegally modified vehicles. These offences are referred to as 'type 2' impoundment offences.

The 'type 2' legislation was introduced on 1 July 2007 in the North Coast and Southern Police Regions, on 1 December 2007 in the South Eastern Police Region, and on 1 July 2008 in the remainder of the State.