

Question on Notice
No. 904
Asked on 14 June 2011

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

QUESTION:

With reference to anti-hoon legislation—

Will the Minister advise the total number of vehicles impounded in the Ipswich District during 2010, and the benefits of the hoon hotline?

ANSWER:

The Bligh Government does not tolerate the dangerous attitudes of drivers who disobey the law and put the lives of other road users at risk. In November 2008, the Government committed to a major Road Safety Initiative over two years, including an increase of 106 traffic police positions.

Further, in November 2002, the Government introduced new 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 of 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.

To strengthen this legislation, in July 2007 the Government introduced further 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.

During 2010 in the Ipswich Police District, police impounded 30 motor vehicles under 'type 1' legislation and 563 motor vehicles under 'type 2' legislation (total 593 motor vehicles), for a 48 hour period.

The 13HOON (13 4666) hotline was launched on 13 December 2010 to provide Queenslanders with an easy to remember central contact point to report drivers performing dangerous, reckless or anti-social behaviour on our roads. This initiative implemented an election commitment made by this Government to provide the community with an easy way to report instances of hooning on Queensland roads. The election commitment was made in response to concerns raised by members of the community about hoons taking to our streets doing burn outs, illegal drag racing and driving in an unsafe manner.

When a report of a hooning incident is received on the 13HOON hotline, a trained call-taker records the vehicle registration, the vehicle characteristics, and the time, location and description of the incident. The recorded details are then forwarded to the relevant police region for investigation and enforcement action where appropriate.

Community members are encouraged to call 13HOON to report drivers performing dangerous, reckless or anti-social behaviour on our roads. This may include donuts, drifting, fishtails, revving of engines, screeching brakes, skidding, burn outs, time trials or street racing, and rolling road blocks.

It is important to note that if anyone is in immediate danger or it is a life-threatening incident, the Triple Zero (000) number should be used.

Since its launch on 13 December 2010, almost 2,500 community members have used the 13HOON hotline to report hooning incidents and traffic complaints.

The 13HOON hotline contributes to road safety as it assists the police in investigating driving offences and targeting hooning hotspots.

In 2011-12 the Bligh Government invested a record \$2.1 billion to enable the Queensland Police Service to continue its efforts to reduce crime and enhance community safety. This record police budget allocation includes a \$25.7 million investment aimed at reducing road trauma through the continued deployment of mobile and fixed speed cameras across Queensland.

This Government makes no apology for getting tough on hooning behaviour on our roads and doing what is necessary to ensure the safety of all road users.