

Question on Notice
No. 404
Asked on 12 July 2012

MR DOWLING asked the Minister for Police and Community Safety (MR DEMPSEY)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise if the anti-hooning laws currently being enforced are proving to be successful?

ANSWER:

Queensland is the only Australian jurisdiction that does not have extended impoundments. This allows a perception that Queensland has lagged behind other jurisdictions by retaining an initial 48 hour impoundment period, while others have moved to an initial 28 day impoundment period.

The findings of a 2009 study¹ indicated the 48 hour impoundment period may not be sufficient to provide an effective and genuine deterrent. In this study, the researchers speculated that the deterrence value of the initial impoundment period comes only from an offender being eligible for more severe penalties such as impoundment for three months or forfeiture of their vehicles, after this initial impoundment period had been imposed.

The Newman Government is committed to ensuring our families are safe in their communities through our *Safer Streets Crime Action Plan*. This Government will crack down on hoons and is currently preparing new legislation in line with our election commitment to have the toughest anti-hoon laws in Australia.

Under our proposals, any persons committing a hooning offence could face having their cars impounded or clamped and off the road at their own expense for three months for their first offence. These changes will reduce red tape and paperwork, which will allow operational officers to spend more time on front-line policing.

Any offender that commits another hooning offence within five years of the first offence will face forfeiting their vehicle to be sold or crushed. We will also allow police to commence proceedings by ticket for a Type 2 'pre-impoundment' offence rather than having to proceed by way of a 'Notice to Appear' or arrest.

¹ Leal, Nerida; Watson, Barry; Armstrong, Kerry; and King, Mark (2009) "*There's no way in hell I would pull up*": *Deterrent and other effects of vehicle impoundment laws for hooning*. In: Proceedings of the 2009 Australasian Road Safety Research, Policing and Education Conference and the 2009 Intelligence Speed Adaptation (ISA) Conference, 10-12 November 2009, Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Sydney.