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Mr Rob Fairs MP

By email: rob.fairs@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Rob

Thank you for your Constituent Question in relation to reckless and unsafe driving behaviour in the Bass electorate. Hooning, speeding and driving dangerously puts the driver and others at risk of serious injury and death on our roads.

As you noted, the Government is working on new legislation that will target hooning and dangerous driving. The draft Bill is due to be released for public consultation imminently, and members of the public should be encouraged to have their say and provide a submission on the proposed amendments. It is expected that debate on the legislation will occur later this year.

Among other reforms, the proposed amendments will introduce a new offence for road rage, double penalties for dangerous or reckless driving and motor vehicle theft and making it easier for vehicles to be forfeited to the Crown for hooning offences.

Tasmania Police continue to take all reports of hooning, reckless or unsafe driving seriously. Anyone detected driving dangerously faces being arrested, fined, losing their licence, and having their vehicle clamped or confiscated.

Tasmania Police provide support to the local communities of Bass through dedicated patrol activities and traffic operations that are designed to keep our roads and public spaces safe. Through those patrols our officers continue to target anti-social and dangerous driving behaviour.

Our officers analyse social media platforms and where vehicles and offenders are identifiable, action is taken to bring them to account for their dangerous and illegal behaviour. Police utilise drones and other technology to assist in identifying offending behaviour and locating vehicles and drivers.

If anyone witnesses dangerous driving behaviour, including hooning, we ask that they report it to police at the time, to allow us to investigate thoroughly. Providing information to police such as the location, registration number, and vehicle description gives police the best chance at being able to stop hooning quickly.

If a member of the public has dash cam footage or other evidence of this driving behaviour, it can be uploaded to the dangerous driving portal at https://taspol.au.evidence.com/axon/citizen/public/traffic_complaints

Information can also be provided by calling police on 131 444 or through the Crime Stoppers Tasmania website at crimestopperstas.com.au

Yours sincerely

Hon Felix Ellis MP

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management

29/8/2024