



Parliament of Tasmania

MEDIA RELEASE

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MANDATORY ALCOHOL INTERLOCK REGULATIONS UNFAIR IN CURRENT FORM

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Subordinate Legislation has found that the financial implications of the retrospective application of the current Mandatory Alcohol Interlock Program (MAIP) is unfair and inappropriate.

Whilst the Committee supports the MAIP as a road safety measure, it found that the implementation process undertaken unfairly treated those whose offence and judicial review had taken place prior to the commencement of the Program.

Committee Chair Hon Ruth Forrest MLC stated “The additional costs associated with the installation and maintenance of the alcohol interlock device when imposed for offenders sentenced prior to July 31, are above and beyond the monetary penalty imposed by the Magistrate and acts as a double penalty.”

The Committee also found that the impact on employers and business in having to apply an alcohol interlock device on a number of vehicles for an employee who is required to use an alcohol interlock device is unreasonable. There is also no provision for individuals seeking to regain their drivers licence and facing severe hardship to apply to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles for consideration of an exemption.

“The Committee believed that it is unjust that there is currently no capacity for employers who require their employees to drive work

related vehicles or individuals facing severe hardship, to apply to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles for an exemption.

The Committee has received a commitment from Minister David O’Byrne to make amending regulations to provide the capacity for applications for exemptions for reasons of employment and severe hardship” Ms Forrest said.

“In addition, the Minister has provided a commitment to the Committee to alter the operation of the MAIP to provide a fee waiver for those people sentenced prior to 31 July 2013. This waiver covers installation and full basic servicing fees for 15 months” Ms Forrest stated.

It is expected that the new Regulations will be Gazetted and thus effective from 27 November 2013. A targeted communications strategy to advise all clients who will be eligible for a fee waiver, key stakeholders and providers of the alcohol interlock devices, of the new exemptions and fee waiver processes will be undertaken.

“These important changes have been made as a direct result of the Committee’s inquiry and its pressure to ensure a fair and reasonable implementation of this worthwhile road safety measure” Ms Forrest stated.

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FURTHER INFORMATION: Ruth Forrest MLC – 0419 879 524