



Speech By  
**Hon. Jann Stuckey**

**MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN**

---

**POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES (MOTOR VEHICLE IMPOUNDMENT)  
AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Hon. JA STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (4.06 pm): I rise to join the debate on the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Motor Vehicle Impoundment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, which was introduced into this House by the Minister for Police and Community Safety, the honourable member for Bundaberg, on 27 November 2012. I begin my speech by congratulating the minister and his department for introducing this long overdue legislation that those opposite did not have either the grit or determination to do for years.

This bill amends the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 and the Corrective Services Act 2006. Specifically, the bill amends chapter 4 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, which provides two schemes for the impoundment and forfeiture of motor vehicles used to commit certain offences—namely, the type 1 and type 2 vehicle impoundment schemes. The type 1 vehicle impoundment scheme applies to a range of traffic offences commonly associated with hooning. The type 2 vehicle impoundment scheme applies to offences such as unlicensed and unregistered driving.

This bill will see evade police offences included as a type 1 offence and high-end speeding as type 2. In addition, the impoundment sanctions will be increased to 90 days for the first type 1 offence, and for the second or subsequent offence within five years the penalty will now be forfeiture of the vehicle. For the second type 2 offence the impoundment will now be seven days, and for the third type 2 offence it will be 90 days. Any further offences will result in forfeiture of the vehicle.

Both impoundment and forfeiture processes will now operate administratively rather than through a court process—a practical approach that will see valuable time savings for both the police and the court. It is estimated that it takes an experienced police officer approximately eight hours to complete an impoundment application to go to court. This new administration approach further reinforces the LNP's commitment to get more police on the beat and not be tied up in unnecessary, burdensome paperwork that generates no tangible benefit for our community.

**Mr Johnson** interjected.

**Mrs STUCKEY:** Definitely not the Labor way! New measures will also be introduced as an alternative to impounding vehicles and these include clamping, removal of numberplates and vehicle production notices. The bill also gives the commissioner the ability to release vehicles upon application by the owner or usual driver in certain circumstances. On the Gold Coast in 2012 alone 509 vehicles were impounded and 3,771 high-end speeding, or type 2, offences were reported.

The LNP went to the 2012 election on a platform of introducing tough new legislation in the area of law and order, and part of that commitment was to introduce the toughest anti-hooning laws in the nation. The Putting the Brakes on Hoons policy is part of the Newman government's Safer Streets

Crime Action Plan. This is a plan that has real, achievable and much warranted initiatives that will ensure our communities are a safe place to live.

I dispute the comments of the honourable member for Rockhampton. On the one hand he was relating to poor consultation, stunts and minimal research and yet at the end of his speech he acknowledged that we had a mandate from the election. I think the gentleman got somewhat confused in what was probably a very long speech. However, Labor's record, or lack thereof, speaks for itself.

In 2008 I launched the Hoon Watch initiative in response to frequent complaints of hooning in our local streets and extensive consultation with the community and local police officers. More than two-thirds of the 3,000 plus respondents to my electorate-wide survey cited law and order issues as their No. 1 concern, with hooning highly represented. In 2008 we had a government too interested in playing politics rather than supporting its constituents. In my electorate of Currumbin I was constantly witnessing firsthand absolutely unacceptable behaviour and I definitely was not alone. Residents were frequently contacting my office to express their anguish over this situation and their frustration in seeing no changes from the Labor government. It was off the back of this overwhelming community consultation that I decided to launch Hoon Watch, an initiative that allowed concerned residents to actively participate in the process and assist in determining those who are disobeying the law. For my efforts I was mocked by several Labor ministers in this House for supposedly creating more work for the police. I ask honourable members: what could be simpler than providing information on a tailor-made form to our police?

In the four years following the launch I generated 11 local media releases, spoke in parliament many times, held regular discussions with our local officers and continually engaged with locals. Hoon Watch was adopted as LNP policy. We also saw an unwavering dedication from local officers to catch offenders, and I wish to place on record my thanks for promptly and efficiently responding to all Hoon Watch forms that I forwarded to officers in my electorate.

In spite of all of this, there simply was not the legislative backing needed to get the message across to offenders. Labor was soft on crime and hoons were proud of their behaviour and confident that, when caught by our ever diligent officers, they would get off with small or no penalties. This was unacceptable on every count but it really was a trait that we unfortunately came to accept from a limp-wristed Labor administration which time and time again demonstrated its incapacity to govern the way Queenslanders rightfully expected and deserved.

I note that the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee put forward four recommendations, all supported by the government. With the passage of this legislation, the police finally have the backing to adequately penalise offenders. It is important that we all work to get the message out to the community to be our eyes and ears on the roads. Police officers are undoubtedly thorough in their efforts to protect our community, but they simply cannot be everywhere all the time, and with initiatives such as Hoon Watch we ensure that the residents are in a position to contribute to the process.

The LNP is serious about protecting our officers, we are serious about protecting our children, we are serious about increasing penalties for offenders and we are absolutely serious about cleaning up our streets. I have been relentless in my commitment to the good people of Currumbin to stamp out hooning on the streets. Now we finally have the full force of the law to throw at those who continue to engage in this deplorable behaviour that Queenslanders should not have to tolerate. I have said before in this House and I will say it again today: criminals should be afraid of this government. They should clean up their act or get out of Queensland.