



---

17 June 2009

## Tougher Hoon Laws Planned

Dr Mike Nahan, the Member for Riverton welcomed the State Government's plans to toughen the penalties for hoon driving with the introduction to Parliament this week of the Road Traffic Amendment (Hoons) Bill 2009.

"Hooning on our streets is one of the biggest problems facing the community. The new Bill recognises that and will increase the period that a vehicle involved in hooning is impounded to 28 days for a first offence and to three months for a second offence," said Dr Nahan.

Dr Nahan said on a third and subsequent offence, the hoon's vehicle will be confiscated and the proceeds from its sale will go to road safety projects. Vehicles of little value will be crushed.

"These new tougher penalties, where the vehicles are confiscated for significant periods of time or lost altogether through crushing will be a major deterrent to hoon drivers and are necessary to ensure that people drive responsibly on our roads," said Dr Nahan.

"While most drivers do the right thing, there are some people who continue to disregard the road rules and to jeopardize the safety of others through their irresponsible driving. The new Bill sends a clear message – they will be caught and they will face the loss of their vehicle."

Dr Nahan said stricter penalties would also apply for people who deface or devalue a vehicle after being served with a Notice of Intention to Confiscate. Another important change under the new legislation is that reckless driving will be considered a hoon offence.

"Police will no longer have to establish a circumstance of aggravation, such as racing, excessive noise or burnouts for instances of reckless driving to be a hoon offence," said Dr Nahan.

"In addition, these changes will not only focus on hoon drivers but also people driving without a valid license. From 1 July 2009, if you are found to be driving without a valid license, your car will be impounded on the spot for 28 days."

Dr Nahan said the Government has set up a new Demerit Point Hotline on 1300 720 111 to enable people to check the current status of their demerit points.

"I hope that all drivers will understand the need for these changes and that the tougher penalties will encourage hoons to think twice about their behaviour on our roads."

**Media Contact: Mike Nahan 9457 1282 or 0412 911 969**  
[www.mikenahan.com.au](http://www.mikenahan.com.au)