



Drink drivers charged at Gateway toll booths

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In a Queensland first, Morningside Police initiated an operation to conduct random breath tests (RBTs) at the Gateway Bridge toll plaza as part of an “anywhere, anytime” campaign to enforce the road rules.

General duties, traffic and plain-clothes officers from South Brisbane Police District recently conducted more than 2,000 RBTs in northbound toll lanes at Murarrie from 9pm to 2.30am the next day.

Sergeant Trevor Mergard, Morningside Police Station said the Gateway Motorway had seen five significant traffic crashes and two fatalities in recent times and as a result, tactics to make the motorway safer were discussed with staff from Queensland Motorways.

“Toll staff reported drivers speeding, intoxicated or drinking while driving, using mobile phones while driving, and not restraining young children in vehicles,” Sergeant Mergard said.

“Through a working partnership with Queensland Motorways, a team and suitable time was established for the RBT operation.

“A high priority was to manage the large volume of traffic passing through the toll plaza and limit delays, and still provide a safe environment for both commercial and private members of the community,” he said.

On the night, 2,450 vehicles were intercepted resulting in 12 drink driving charges, five drug charges, two heavy

vehicle log book offences and 15 traffic infringement notices including consuming liquor while driving, not wearing seat belts and exceeding the passenger capacity of a vehicle.

Sergeant Mergard said negotiations were under way with Queensland Motorways for a similar operation covering both north and southbound lanes with an emphasis on speed management in free flowing e-toll lanes.

“Together we can achieve results,” he said. ■