



FROM COMMISSIONER ATKINSON

Reducing the road toll

A key priority for the Service is providing for the safety and security of the community. As a Police Service we are committed to reducing the devastating loss of life on our roads, which has traumatic consequences, not only for the individuals already harmed but also for family members and friends. These incidents are also traumatic for the police and emergency services personnel who have to attend, manage and investigate them.

Sixty-four people have lost their lives on Queensland roads this year (as at March 10, 2008). We must continually strive to improve both educational and enforcement strategies to keep the number of deaths and injuries as low as possible.

In the past six months a number of new initiatives have been implemented, reflecting the commitment of individual members in that regard.

In January, the *Save A Life A Week* road safety campaign commenced, with the aim of reducing the 2007 road toll by an average of one life per week. In 2007, 360 people were killed on Queensland roads in 338 separate traffic crashes. The campaign has the goal of reducing that number by 52 in 2008.

Three fixed speed cameras have also commenced operation. The speed camera program is aimed at reducing road trauma through enforcement. Mobile speed cameras have been used in Queensland since 1997. In 2007, there were 106 fatal crashes in speed camera zones. This equates to a reduction in fatal crashes of a little over 41 percent between 1995 and 2007. In 2007, mobile speed cameras monitored 44,198,175 vehicles on Queensland roads. The new generation speed cameras continue to improve our ability to curb irresponsible behaviour by drivers who persist in speeding.

The Random Roadside Drug Testing Project, implemented late last year, supports our continued efforts to take dangerous drivers off the road. Police officers are now able to detect cannabis, methamphetamines and ecstasy (MDMA), which are of particular concern because the presence of those drugs is being identified in drivers involved in both fatal and serious injury crashes.

While the Service as a whole focuses considerable effort on road safety campaigns, I gratefully acknowledge the innovation and energy displayed by individual

members throughout the regions who look for and devise solutions to the problems in their local areas. A number of high-quality initiatives have been established to educate drivers and prevent crashes, and some of these have been recognised formally. The contribution of this good work will be crucial to our success in this area.

The loss of 64 lives to date in 2008 is eight lives fewer than the same time in 2007.

Easter campaign

Over the Easter period the Service focused on a strong policing presence, which gave all QPS officers the opportunity to be directly involved and contribute to road safety in Queensland. Staff not normally deployed in the operational policing environment took part in proactive and reactive policing activities over the Easter holiday period. This initiative not only enhanced our visible presence on Queensland roads, but also allowed greater flexibility in terms of deploying our operational officers across this busy holiday period. I look forward to feedback from the regions, and thank you all for your contribution to this very important road safety campaign.



JUDY SPENCE MP
MINISTER FOR POLICE,
CORRECTIVE SERVICES AND SPORT

Last month I took the opportunity to inform State Parliament about some of the excellent strategies being used by police in the state's south-east corner.

One of these is the introduction of Q-Cars to target reckless drivers.

I congratulate all the police involved in this and other initiatives –you are helping to make our roads safer for all Queenslanders.

Hansard extract 26 February 2008 Q-Cars

Hon. JC SPENCE (Mount Gravatt—ALP) (Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Sport) (9.49 am): Late last year I announced that two non-standard, unmarked police vehicles, known as Q-Cars, would be patrolling undercover on our roads. Hoons looking out for standard police cars have had quite a shock recently when pulled over by a Q-Car.

I would like to inform the House of the operations of the two unmarked vehicles from 20 December 2007 to 10 January 2008. In that short time, 264 offenders were detected. The vast majority were men, with only 50 women caught. One hundred and eighty people were booked for speeding, 77 for using

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