



Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and
Minister for Corrective Services



File No: 16936 P1 AL

Level 35
1 William Street Brisbane
PO Box 15195 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3035 8300
Facsimile +61 7 3221 0794
Email police@ministerial.qld.gov.au
ABN 65 959 415 158

The Honourable Stirling Hinchliffe MP
Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games
Leader of the House
GPO Box 2644
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Minister

The Queensland Police Service (QPS) commenced roadside drug testing in December 2007 and increased testing from 2014 to 2016. This has been achieved by training and increasing the number of police authorised to undertake this drug testing. A total of 405 police officers have now been trained to perform this specialised duty statewide. As you are aware, Queensland's Road Safety Action Plan 2015 – 17 'Safer Roads, Safer Queensland' seeks commitment to the following actions:

Action 18. *Expand training for road police officers to better detect and deter broader criminal activities, including enhanced drug driving operations across Queensland.*

Action 21. *Investigate drug driving in Queensland and consider the effectiveness of existing penalties and sanctions and other countermeasures such as diversionary programs.*

The QPS Road Policing Command (RPC) has been responsible for the increased operational deployment of roadside drug testing resources. The RPC also undertook 'CATCH' training which enhanced those RPC trained officers with a better skillset and knowledge to become involved in the detection and deterrence of broader criminal activities when those officers engage in road policing throughout Queensland.

The QPS has more than doubled the amount of roadside drug tests performed, to 49,445 tests in the 2015-2016 financial year, with a total of 10,804 persons detected during this period as driving a motor vehicle or vessel with a relevant drug in their system. The drug tests can detect cannabis, speed/ice or ecstasy in a person's saliva, with legislation permitting the detection of these drugs in blood samples to the charging of a detected driver. These substances are known to cause impairment to a driver's control of vehicle or vessel. In the past year there has been a 28 percent increase in the detection of methamphetamine (speed and ice) detections in drivers of vehicles across Queensland.

With regards to the 'Safer Roads, Safer Queensland' Road Safety Action Plan, the QPS already maintains a good partnership with the Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR). I am advised that together with other road safety stakeholders within drug driving operation requirements, the DTMR 'Drug Driving Working Group' facilitates policy, legislative and procedural development opportunities to improve drug driving initiatives.

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As the Minister responsible for the *Transport Operations (Road use Management) Act 1995* (TORUM), I seek your consideration on Action 21 regarding a review and possible improvement of the adequacy of penalties, sanctions and any diversionary programs that can further assist the QPS to operationally reduce the incidence of drug driving. In particular, I seek your support for increasing the penalty for first offenders pursuant to section 79 (2AA) [driving, etc., while relevant drug is present in blood or saliva] of the TORUM.

I trust any information within this correspondence is of assistance and I look forward to your assistance. Should you require further information, Mr Peter Clarke, Acting Chief of Staff, is available on telephone (07) 3035 8300.

Yours sincerely



The Honourable Bill Byrne MP
**Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and
Minister for Corrective Services**

Released under RTI - DTPAR

Not Relevant

Part Exempt Sch.3(2)(1)(b) Reveal Cabinet consideration

Not Relevant

Not Relevant

Part Exempt Sch. 3(2)(3)(a) Cabinet submission

Not Relevant

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Part Exempt Sch. 3(2)(3)(a) Cabinet submission

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Part Exempt Sch.3(2)(3)(a) Cabinet submission

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