

HOON DRIVERS — COVERT CAMERAS

877. MR N.W. MORTON to the Minister for Police:

Before I ask my question, I acknowledge the years 5 and 6 students from Hawker Park Primary School in the member for Kingsley's electorate who are in the public gallery today.

I refer to the Liberal-National government's election commitment for covert hoon cameras. Can the minister please inform the house how Western Australia Police is using covert hoon cameras to combat hoon driving in our community?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for Forrestfield for this question, and his continued interest in law enforcement matters, particularly, in his electorate of Forrestfield.

I am really pleased to inform the house of the partial achievement of yet another Liberal-National election commitment. In 2013, we committed to provide \$170 000 over four years to allow WA Police to purchase 24 covert hoon cameras. These cameras were to be used in assisting police in prosecuting offenders for hoon offences. We have been very successful over the three-month work up of the trial period in using police intelligence in our local policing teams to build up a database of where these cameras can be best placed and best deployed in order to catch hoon drivers in the act. Indeed, it has been highly successful. Members may have seen some footage of these hoons in action; we have certainly seen Facebook posts of some of these hoons in action. Their behaviour is absolutely appalling. They have no regard for anybody else in their community; they are not considering the consequences of their actions. I am pleased to report the result of the deployment of these cameras over three months. Thirty cars have been impounded and 41 charges have been laid against hoon drivers—a significant achievement for the police. Importantly, and members in the house might be surprised to note, we have had tremendous success in hoon drivers pleading guilty at the first opportunity because the video evidence, the evidence that we have recorded on film, has been so compelling that they have deemed it more appropriate to plead guilty to those offences, which is therefore saving taxpayers' money and shortening the process in allowing us to prosecute those drivers and impound their vehicles. I look forward to the continued purchase of these cameras over the four-year period. I encourage members of the community and members of Parliament to engage with their local policing teams to help us gather the evidence of where hoons congregate, so that we know where to best place these cameras to catch these people. The more of these drivers and their vehicles we get off the road, the better for community safety in Western Australia.