

HOON DRIVERS — COVERT CAMERAS

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

Before I ask my question, I firstly acknowledge the amazing volunteers from the Men's Health Peer Education group in my electorate, which does some fantastic work with veterans, who are here in the Speaker's gallery today.

I refer to the Liberal–National government's allocation of funding for additional covert hoon cameras in the 2015–16 budget. How many cameras will be purchased and how will they be used by police?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for Forresterfield for his interest in road safety and policing matters, and particularly in combating the scourge of hoons on our streets. I am also really pleased that I have the opportunity to talk about yet another Liberal–National government election commitment that we have achieved. We took to the electorate in the 2013 election a commitment that we would spend \$170 000 over four years, purchasing 24 covert hoon cameras. We rolled out phase 1 of that project in March and April this year, trialling a range of cameras to work out which type of camera would be suitable for the purpose. The aim of this, and indeed part of the trial process, was to put these hoon cameras in spots that had been identified by the community as known hoon hotspots, and also places that had been identified by local policing teams and our state traffic intelligence unit where we could get good value for money out of the deployment of those cameras. We have already brought some charges against offenders as a result of this process, and the footage that we are getting from these Mobotix cameras is fantastic. It is very clear; we can identify the drivers quite clearly, we can certainly identify the numberplates and the make of the vehicles, and the police are very excited about this new tool to get more of these hoon drivers off our roads.

Phase 2, as I was talking about with the operational deployment, will be ending in September 2015. We are encouraging the community to identify these hoon hotspots, to liaise with their local policing teams and to make sure that we add to the intelligence that police collect from looking at the sites of these hoon groups, to ensure that we can get these people off the roads. Phase 3 will start in October 2015. We will be reviewing the camera deployments and making sure we are getting it right and getting convictions. At that time, we will also look at new and emerging camera technology so that as we continue to purchase an additional six cameras every year, we will be getting the very best technology available to police at the time, to make sure that we can use this spend of government to the best effect.

I thank the member for Forresterfield for the question. Very shortly I will bring legislation to this place to complement this camera purchase, which will allow police to apply to the courts to confiscate vehicles in the first instance for hoon offences that occur in certain circumstances—for example, in active school zones. We are really pleased about that. We think that will continue to keep us right at the very cutting edge of having the most effective legislation to combat hoons in Australia.