

ROAD SAFETY — EASTER LONG WEEKEND

**156. Mr I.C. BLAYNEY to the Minister for Road Safety:**

Can the minister please inform the house of what the government will be doing to help keep Western Australians safe on our roads this Easter?

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:**

I thank the member for Geraldton for this very important question on road safety, as we head into one of the busiest weekends on our roads in Western Australia's calendar. On the Easter long weekend, thousands of Western Australians travel to holiday destinations. Year in, year out police do their level best to try to ensure that the road toll over the Easter long weekend is kept to a minimum. We would love to have a zero fatality rate on the Easter long weekend but, sadly, we are still seeing the same causes of fatal and serious injuries in crashes that are reported in the media around these kinds of events.

I was very pleased to launch the Easter road safety strategy and campaign by police today. We have deployed additional booze buses to the south west and the great southern regions and that will start to have more of an impact around this long weekend period on drink and drug-driving. We are also deploying some of our motorcycle fleet, and some of those motorcycles have been fitted with speed detecting equipment so that those officers, as they travel on our major arterial roads, in the east and the north, will have the opportunity to clock the speeds of vehicles coming towards them and infringe those motorists accordingly. Importantly, members will be aware that this weekend is a double demerit points weekend. Those people who are infringed will end up accruing double the demerit points that they would otherwise accrue.

We are also putting six additional mobile speed cameras into regional centres, effectively doubling our capacity, and police will be using long-range camera equipment, which will be focused on motorists to detect seatbelt offences, mobile phone offences—those causes of distraction and the non-wearing of seatbelts that result in crashes becoming catastrophes, as people are thrown from a vehicle as a result of not wearing appropriate restraints. A lot of the police vehicles will have numberplate recognition technology, so as our fleet of officers move throughout the regions with a very high visibility focus, they will be clocking the numberplates and pulling over the drivers whom we know are high risk, or vehicles being driven by unlicensed drivers.

Several members interjected.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** It is interesting that we see members opposite yawning through this answer. Since we came to government —

**Mrs M.H. Roberts** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Midland! You have one minute, minister.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Since we came to government we have driven down the road toll in this state by 34 per cent. The member for Midland has a hide interjecting on me. When she was minister, the road toll rose. It rose by nearly a third under her watch.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Midland, I call you to order for the first time. You have 30 seconds, minister.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Police will also be using their covert hoon cameras in regional areas to target known hoon hotspots to get those dangerous drivers off our roads. My message to motorists over Easter is to slow down, to drive to conditions, and to please put road safety as their first priority as they venture out over the Easter long weekend. Our road toll sits at 46. That is 46 families who will not have their loved ones with them this Christmas. We need to interrupt that process and ensure that we drive down the road toll and reduce the impact of road trauma across the state.