

ROAD SAFETY — OPERATION WA DAY 2013

235. Mr F.A. ALBAN to the Minister for Police:

Can the minister please update the house on the recent Western Australia Day long weekend road safety traffic campaign?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for this question.

Operation WA Day 2013 was an operation that WA Police ran over the long weekend. We ran it to coincide with Fatality Free Friday, and also the usual double demerit points that kick in over a long weekend, starting at midnight on Thursday night and finishing at midnight on Monday night. It was a very good campaign. The police put this together with a view to having a very high policing presence. They used their traffic intelligence model to look at targeting, detecting and apprehending specifically drink-drivers and drug-drivers. They went into their database and pulled out those licensed venues for which there was a high level of place-of-last-drink data. That is the place that drivers who have been caught for drink-driving identify as being the last place they were at before they hopped in their car and drove away.

As a result of this targeted approach, WA Police cameras and our advanced traffic management vehicles had contact with 485 149 motorists; 21 179 random and preliminary breath tests were conducted; and 205 drug tests were conducted. Out of these, we have had 157 drink-driving offences and 14 positive roadside drug tests. Further, 2 116 traffic infringement notices were issued by police over that long weekend period; 66 vehicles were impounded; and 8 133 motorists were detected speeding by camera operations, and some of them have been charged with hoon offences. While it is a huge enforcement effort and a huge enforcement success, it also highlights that there is a very high level of risk taking and dangerous driver activity on our roads.

That is why I am very pleased that we delivered \$27 million towards the modernisation of our police and speed camera enforcement activities, and why I am very pleased that we have also committed to two additional booze and drug testing buses and 48 advanced traffic management vehicles, to ensure that we can bring some of those offenders into line and have them improve their behaviour for the benefit of all motorists. I am also looking forward to the announcements in the budget in August, when we will be looking at further road safety initiatives to ensure that we can have better driver compliance on our roads for the benefit of the road safety of all Western Australian road users.