



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND JUSTICE STANDING COMMITTEE

MEDIA RELEASE

From: Ms M.M. Quirk, MLA
Chair

To: ALL MEDIA

Date: 25 June 2015

Traffic enforcement: how does WA Police measure up?

WA POLICE needs to provide more evidence of how it uses data and research findings to guide traffic enforcement, according to the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee.

Reported measures do not give parliament, road safety stakeholders and the public an adequate indication of whether traffic enforcement is effective.

These conclusions are contained in the Committee's report tabled in the Legislative Assembly today, ***Are we there yet? How WA Police determines whether traffic law enforcement is effective.***

The report is the first in a series related to the *Inquiry into Methods of Evaluating WA Police Performance*, announced in November 2014.

The Committee found that WA Police's reported measures are few (there is only one traffic law enforcement KPI) and the data provided to the public does not tell the whole road safety story.

Given that police operations consume a large slice of the State budget, it is important that robust effectiveness measures are in place – particularly in the context of the largely untested *Frontline 2020* police reforms being implemented.

*Reducing the road toll using the strategy of general deterrence requires long term planning, application of scientific research and significant resources. But I cannot imagine anyone opposing measures which would result in fewer lives being lost on our roads. – Community Development and Justice Standing Committee chair
Margaret Quirk*

Road safety research suggests that general deterrence strategies – the “anywhere, anytime” philosophy – are the most effective for changing both drink-driving and speeding behaviour, because they have the potential to influence all road users.

Measurement of effectiveness should therefore contain some way to determine whether behaviour change has taken place. However community attitude surveys which measure driver perceptions have not been conducted since 2011.

While WA Police is one of a number of agencies which contributes to road safety, in the absence of clear and unambiguous performance indicators they are likely to be held solely responsible for the road toll. It is in their best interests to ensure effective evaluation of their performance and share this information with the community.

Copies of the report are available on the Committee's website under 'Reports' at www.parliament.wa.gov.au/cdjsc

For further information please contact Ms Margaret Quirk, MLA (Committee Chair) on 0409038162 or Sarah Palmer (Principal Research Officer) on 9222 7486 or email lacdjsc@parliament.wa.gov.au