

Mr N Laurie  
Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to a copy of a petition forwarded to me from the Hon Dean Wells MP, Minister for the Environment and Member for Murrumba, nominating as the Principal Petitioners Messrs Leo Kalinowski and Ken Creek, concerning speeding and noisy traffic using Moreton Downs Drive, Moreton Downs.

Attached are hard and electronic copies of my response to Mr Wells.

Yours sincerely

**TONY McGRADY**  
**Minister for Police and Corrective Services**  
**and Minister Assisting the Premier on the**  
**Carpentaria Minerals Province**

Ref: 2627 F1A GM

12 August 2003

The Honourable Dean Wells MP  
Minister for the Environment and  
Member for Murrumba  
Deception Bay Shopping Centre  
Deception Bay Road  
DECEPTION BAY QLD 4508

Dear Mr Wells

I refer to your representations on behalf of your constituents at Moreton Downs concerning speeding and noisy traffic using Moreton Downs Drive, and an associated Petition submitted to you by Messrs Leo Kalinowski and Ken Creek as the Principal Petitioners.

I brought the Petitioners' concerns to the attention of the Assistant Commissioner, North Coast Region who has advised that he arranged for Senior Sergeant Garth Peake, the Officer-in-Charge of the Redcliffe District Traffic Branch, to contact Mr Kalinowski and Mr Creek about the traffic issues raised.

Senior Sergeant Peake advised Messrs Kalinowski and Creek that the traffic concerns which the Petitioners have raised have been recorded on the Queensland Police Service Traffic Returns Analysis and Complaints System (TRACS), which was implemented by the Police service in 2000 to enable police officers across the State to register, assess, and deal with traffic complaints more efficiently, and provide complainants with feedback on the action taken in response to their complaints.

In addition to isolating individual cases of poor driver behaviour, TRACS assists police to identify traffic "hotspots" and traffic infringement trends, thereby ensuring such problems receive appropriate police attention. In this way TRACS also enhances the effectiveness of police traffic enforcement activities by ensuring resources are deployed where they are most needed.

The Assistant Commissioner has given an undertaking that Moreton Downs Drive will be subjected to random, proactive traffic enforcement activities and intelligence-driven patrols by his officers in order to address the concerns raised by the Petitioners relating to speeding and the noisy manner of operation of vehicles at the location.

The Assistant Commissioner advises that police records show there has been only one traffic incident in the Moreton Downs area since 1997. That incident involved an unroadworthy vehicle which was being driven by an unlicensed and inexperienced driver mounting a roundabout and colliding with a fence outside Mr Creek's residence in Camay Court. Police took enforcement action against the driver of the vehicle involved in that incident. Both Mr Kalinowski and Mr Creek have been advised of the relatively good record of the area insofar as traffic incidents are concerned.

The Assistant Commissioner is also pleased to advise that Senior Sergeant Peake has made representations to the Caboolture Shire Council's Traffic Advisory Committee with respect to the concerns raised by the Petitioners. The Caboolture Shire Council has completed line-marking upgrades to various roundabout intersections within the Moreton Downs area, and speed limits in various local streets in the area have been reduced to 50 kilometres an hour. The Assistant Commissioner is confident these improvements, coupled with the extra police attention he has advised of, will positively impact on the issues raised by Messrs Kalinowski and Creek and their fellow Petitioners.

The Assistant Commissioner extends an invitation to any of your constituents who may have continuing concerns about the traffic situation in their local area to report the matter to the Deception Bay Police on telephone 3888 0700 for appropriate police action.

It may also interest your constituents to know that the new anti-hooning laws introduced by this Government have been quite effective in deterring dangerous driving activities that place the safety of other road users at risk.

As you know, the new provisions of the *Police Powers and Responsibilities and Another Act Amendment Act 2002* empowers police officers to confiscate the vehicles of motorists who drive dangerously or carelessly, such as when engaged in illegal drag racing or burnouts, for a period of 48 hours. In the case of persons who re-offend within three years, courts may order the impoundment of a vehicle for up to three months for a second offence, or its forfeiture for a third or subsequent offence.

The new laws also tackle the problem of excessive noise from car stereos, which is often associated with the practice of 'lapping'. This practice involves driving repeatedly around a number of streets at slow speed, disrupting and annoying other people who have a right to enjoy the peace and quiet of their surroundings.

Police now have the power to issue directions to drivers to cease using sound equipment for 12 hours where the noise from car stereos is considered excessive. A failure to comply with the direction could result in the equipment being confiscated for 24 hours and prosecution for failure to comply with the police direction.

Since the new laws came into operation on 4 November 2002, a total of 596 cars have been confiscated right across the State. This includes a total of 38 cars in the Redcliffe District. Furthermore, only four offenders have been detected committing such offences on a second occasion, and only one offender on a third occasion.

A further Beattie Government initiative aimed at dealing with the problem of 'hooning' in our communities involves the establishment of 16 district-based tactical crime squads. These squads each comprising 14 police officers will be created over three years to target crime and nuisance 'hotspots' of concern to local communities. The first eight such squads have been established and are now operational.

While the capacity of Tactical Crime Squads to carry out district-based operations into problems such as 'hooning' will provide a boost to affected communities, the Beattie Government believes that other measures should also be pursued in an effort to address this issue.

One of these measures is the Beattie Government's decision to form a Traffic Response Group, within the State Traffic Task Force, to specifically target traffic problems associated with 'hooning' behaviour. In order to establish this Group, the strength of the Task Force has been increased from 24 to 30 officers. In addition, further resources including two motor vehicles, one motorcycle, speed detection equipment, breath testing devices and ancillary

equipment to the value of \$300,000 have been provided for the functioning of the new Traffic Response Group.

I trust this information is of assistance and that your constituents will benefit from the police actions and other initiatives taken in response to the traffic-related concerns raised.

Yours sincerely

**TONY McGRADY**  
**Minister for Police and Corrective Services**  
**and Minister Assisting the Premier on the**  
**Carpentaria Minerals Province**

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