**14 May 2021**

**Australian Federal Police Association**

**Call for vehicles to be seized and immediate suspension notices issued
after excessive speed offences**

The Australian Federal Police Association (AFPA) is calling for new police powers enabling officers to seize vehicles and issue immediate licence suspension notices for drivers caught exceeding the speed limit by more than 45 km/h.

AFPA President Alex Caruana said that officers are often frustrated that they can't seize vehicles for speeding offences. Current legislation allows for vehicles to be seized for hooning offences such as burnouts and street racing.

"It's disheartening when a police officer apprehends a motorist for such a severe breach of the road rules, and then watches the driver drive away to commit the same offence again further down the road.

"Drivers need to be reminded that a drivers licence is a privilege; it's not a right. If someone is caught speeding 45km/h over the speed limit, they probably need some time off the road.

"We are only asking for discretionary powers. In Victoria, vehicle seizure is mandatory. We prefer the officer to use their own judgement in determining if the driver's actions require the vehicle to be seized and an immediate licence suspension notice issued.”

The AFPA welcomes the news that the Minister for Police and Emergency Services is exploring the proposal.

"I want to thank Minister Gentleman for taking our suggestion and asking the relevant questions to see what avenues the ACT Government can take.

"There have been five fatalities on ACT roads this year, and the last two fatalities involved excessive speed. Every road fatality has a significant and tragic impact. It impacts the family, it impacts the first responders, and it affects the wider community.

As part of the legislative proposal, the AFPA wants to ensure that the legislation is human rights compliant and that people have an appeal process if their car is seized or they receive an immediate licence suspension notice.”

Mr Caruana said the appeal processes are already legislated and in place for other offences. If a vehicle is seized, then the owner of the vehicle could appeal to the Chief Police Officer for the ACT to have the vehicle returned.

"Where the appeal relates to an immediate licence suspension, the driver can appeal within 28 days to the ACT Magistrates Court to have the suspension lifted," Mr Caruana said.

END STATEMENT

**For comments:**

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