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AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE ASSOCIATION MEDIA RELEASE

AFPA WELCOMES VULNERABLE ROAD USER LEGISLATION

The Australian Federal Police Association (AFPA) welcomes the announcement of on-the-spot traffic infringement notices for negligent drivers who cause actual bodily harm to others as well as further legislative amendments to protect vulnerable road users.

The vast majority of work to introduce the new legislation was undertaken by ACT Greens member Ms Jo Clay MLA and Minister for Transport Chris Steel MLA.

The AFPA worked with Ms Clay and ACT Pedal Power on these amendments after an incident in late 2020 involving a vulnerable road user. Unfortunately, ACT Policing officers investigating the incident at the time did not have the powers necessary to quickly and fairly resolve the matter.

AFPA President Alex Caruana said that the new laws and amendments introduced by Minister Steel and Ms Clay were excellent and would assist ACT Policing officers at the coalface of traffic policing.

"I would like to thank Ms Clay for her willingness to work with us. It was pleasing to work closely with her office in getting this piece of important legislation up before the Legislative Assembly.

"Before the amendments, there was a gap in the legislation that was difficult for officers to navigate. A simple negligent driving charge did not reflect the seriousness of the incident, nor did it fully acknowledge injuries sustained by the victim.

"These amendments and new legislation close those gaps. We thank Minister Steel and Ms Clay for their work on this. We also thank the other members of the Legislative Assembly who voted in the new laws, including Ms Clay's amendments.

"Reducing harm to vulnerable road users was our priority, and it was a pleasure working with Ms Clay's office and ACT Pedal Power. It was a non-traditional alliance, and we all came together quite quickly, and refreshingly, we were all on the same page," Mr Caruana said.

For comments:

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