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## AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE ASSOCIATION MEDIA RELEASE

### SPEEDING AND DANGEROUS DRIVERS ON NOTICE

The Australian Federal Police Association (AFPA) welcomes the ACT Government's tabling of the *Road Safety Legislation Amendment Bill 2022*, and the new laws targeting excessive speeding and dangerous driving in the ACT.

AFPA President Alex Caruana said the new laws will assist ACT Policing when dealing with people who openly disregard speed limits, street race, or otherwise drive dangerously.

"These new laws are practical and an excellent first step in combating the dangerous driving behaviours seen on ACT roads, while protecting the lives of other road users in the ACT.

"The previous penalties for street racing were lenient and didn't reflect the seriousness of the offence. The new legislation and penalties are more substantial and aligned with other jurisdictions and, most importantly, community expectations.

"The new power for ACT Policing members to immediately suspend a driver's licence for excessive speeding will go a long way towards protecting the community. Previously, if officers detected a motorist travelling at 45km/h over the speed limit, they could only issue a traffic infringement notice and then watch the motorist drive away. ACT Policing can now immediately suspend that motorist's licence and stop them from driving," Mr Caruana said.

The AFPA has been working with the ACT Government on strengthening laws around dangerous driving and presented evidence during the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety's dangerous driving inquiry.

Mr Caruana said that AFPA members have long been calling for reform to combat dangerous driving, and the ACT Government, notably Minister Steel, has delivered on most of the issues raised.

"The AFPA took the information provided by the members and proposed legislation to Minister Steel, Minister Gentleman, and the Attorney-General for their consideration.

"I want to thank Minister Steel for listening to the AFPA members and consulting and working with us as the lead Minister in this reform. Minister Gentleman was also very open to receiving advice from our members and provided assistance. We thank both Ministers for taking affirmative and quick action and working collaboratively with us," Mr Caruana said.

#### For comments:

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