



# Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–25

## Answer to question on notice

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Asked by: Mr Taimus Werner-Gibbins MLA

Addressed to: Minister for City and Government Services

Reference: Traffic Infringement Notices

Hearing: 13 November 2025

In relation to: Traffic Infringement Notices

Question received: 14 November 2025

Answer Due: **28 November 2025**

Fines for traffic offences disproportionately punish young people and those on low incomes. In some European countries, fines for traffic offences are levied as a proportion of the offender's taxable income, meaning that all people are punished to the same extent (proportionately) for the same offence.

1. Could a scheme like that be suitable for the ACT? Has the Minister considered investigating such a scheme?

**Ms Tara Cheyne MLA:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Imposing infringement notice penalties for road transport offences based on a person's income (taxable or otherwise) has been suggested from time to time.

It is not practicable or possible to investigate such arrangements in the ACT. The ACT as a territory in the Australian Federation does not have access to offender's taxation or income records. Additionally, Australia has a complex taxation system meaning many people with high incomes are able to reduce or limit their taxable income to a lesser or greater extent than workers operating under wage or salary arrangements in the PAYG system. As such, trying to implement such arrangements would be unlikely to deliver the parity suggested.

Infringement notice penalties are avoidable by road users obeying the various road transport laws applicable to their use of roads and road related areas. These laws support safe and efficient travel for all Canberrans and visitors.

Where a person has been issued an infringement notice, the ACT has a range of options available to the person. These options include seeking to have the infringement withdrawn, seeking an extension of time to pay the penalty, seeking to pay the penalty through an

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infringement notice management plan by paying in instalments, or participating in an approved community work or social development program, or seeking to have the penalty waived. Obligations of people receiving infringement notices along with appeal options and times within which actions are required to be taken are outlined on the reverse of the infringement notice.

Access Canberra, acting as the road transport authority in the ACT, has systems in place to consider all of the above options for people who may experience difficulty in paying a road transport infringement notice penalty.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Transport and City Services

Signature:



Date:

15/12/25

By the Minister for City and Government Services, Ms Tara Cheyne MLA