



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
**FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Mr Peter Cain MLA (Chair), Dr Marisa Paterson (Deputy Chair),  
Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

## Submission Cover Sheet

### Inquiry into Dangerous Driving

**Submission Number: 014**

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To:

LA Committee - JCS

Subject:

Inquiry into Dangerous Driving

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24 September 2022

Dear Committee Members,

Inquiry into Dangerous Driving.

Thank you the opportunity to make this submission. I am happy for my submission to be published on your website, without my name.

My observations and suggestions for effective policing as a preventative measure should make up part of an ongoing driver education program. This ongoing education, coupled with effective punishments such as on-the-spot fines and orders to rectify defective vehicles, is a way forward. These early intervention measures may not necessitate the matters coming before the criminal justice system and could also prevent many accidents and injuries.

Since moving to the ACT, and in particular the Belconnen area, I have noticed an increase in "hoon" behaviour. This is displayed in two particularly dangerous and annoying activities - noisy hotted up vehicles and dangerous driving. I think that these two activities are closely linked.

The number of 'hotted up' vehicles with loud exhausts - often lowered - and with non standard wide mag wheels seems to have increased. Holden Commodores, and lowered Holden utes, large 4WDs and Subaru WRXs make up the majority of these vehicles. However, many other car makes and models also are involved. These vehicles are usually heavily modified and driven in a real 'manner dangerous' and certainly in an anti social way. There are also many newer European vehicles with six speed auto gear boxes with crackly modified exhaust. When these cars accelerate quickly there is a very loud and annoying back fire on each auto gear change.

I have noted that these noisy modified illegal vehicles are often "P" plated and nearly always driven by young males. I suspect these vehicles are the same ones that do burnouts on the open road and at round-a-bouts, as well as speeding off from traffic lights. There also appears to be an increase in 'Tradies' in very expensive near new 4WDs too, some also with very loud exhausts, who are often noted displaying this kind of anti-social activity.

I have spoken to the Belconnen and Woden police from time to time. This has been especially after I have heard motorbikes and performance vehicles speeding on Uriarra Road and at Uriarra Crossing. I have also encountered racing motorbikes and vehicles on Brindabella Road between the Cotter and Uriarra settlement. There is a massive 'wheely' place along this road. Here there is tyre rubber, tyre cases and other debris littered across the road. On many occasions vehicles have been noted racing at high speeds and on the wrong side of the double centre line.

At Belconnen, on Emu Bank, particularly on Friday and Saturday afternoons and evenings, many 'hoons' take delight in tweaking their loud exhausts then racing off noisily between

the traffic calming road bumps in what is a residential area. Some of the vehicles are very loud and definitely spin their wheels doing quick burnouts. This behaviour is dangerous and very annoying. I am surprised that there hasn't been a serious accident. I am concerned that one day a vehicle driver will lose control and hit other cars or pedestrians in this area.

When speaking to the police they said that they just don't have the personnel to be able to police this effectively with all their other duties. They suggested two things I could do, one, was to write to the Chief Minister and Transport Minister. I did this and I am thankful for their timely responses and actions. On Emu Bank the installation of new concrete dividers, a dedicated bike lane and traffic calming bumps has somewhat alleviated the problem. Their other suggestion was that I should note the noisy suspect vehicles' licence plates, make, model and colour, time and place of the alleged defective vehicle and/or inappropriate dangerous driving and report this information to Crime Stoppers.

Apparently, those registered owners would receive a defect notice and have to report to the vehicle inspection location. Unfortunately by then they would have refitted standard exhausts and wheel/tyre equipment. I have noted that many older vehicles are responsible, but there are many newer ones. I understand, it is illegal to fit non-standard exhaust systems on a post 2008 motor car. I have simply not been able to do this reporting job in any complete or effective way.

I suspect that it is very often these same cars and drivers who speed dangerously, take off heavily in traffic, drive in a 'manner dangerous' doing huge burn-outs and generally acting in a very anti-social way towards all their fellow citizens.

I applaud the government's initiatives to quell this illegal behaviour. Vehicle impoundments, licence and vehicle suspensions or cancellations along with fines and heavy penalties are wonderful steps that have been taken, particularly for repeat offenders, though much more needs to be done.

I also note that, recently, speeding drivers have been caught on Uriarra Road and I know that some years ago a campaign to catch unregistered motorbikes in Brindabella National Park was also very effective. I believe that a regular police presence with spotters and strategically stationed unmarked vehicles to catch these offenders would significantly reduce this behaviour. Emu Bank in Belconnen is ideally located and designed to facilitate this kind of policing activity. The identification of defective modified vehicles and action taken against drivers would also really help alleviate the fears and concerns of Canberra's law-abiding citizens, visitors and residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Yours faithfully

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