



Three Steps Closer to the Crusher!

Over the last few years, the boy racer culture has developed, grown and flourished. Dangerous driving, noise and anti-social behaviour has become common in our cities, in our towns and at gatherings across the country.

While the Labour government looked on, families, businesses, hospitals and even animals have borne the brunt of their lack of action. New Zealand's international reputation became tarnished by this bizarre behaviour and even film crews even came from overseas to record it.

Night after night, people and their lives were disturbed, kept awake and intimidated by hoards of boy racers indulging themselves in fast, noisy, alcohol fuelled good times at the expense of everyone else.

In my city of Christchurch I have been calling for government action for years. And this week we got it. Hon Judith Collins (Minister of Police) and the Hon Steven Joyce (Minister of Transport) have been working on this together. The legislation introduced into Parliament on Tuesday consists of the following two bills:

The Land Transport (Enforcement Powers) Amendment Bill

Vehicle Confiscation and Seizure Bill .



“The Government and the public have lost patience with drivers who use their vehicles in an anti-social manner and put the safety of the public and police at risk. The Vehicle Confiscation and Seizure Bill aims to take the worst of them off the road by taking away their vehicle permanently. Crushing cars would be a last resort for only the most serious of repeat offenders.” Hon Judith Collins



“Illegal street racing is a problem throughout New Zealand. The Enforcement Powers Bill is about ensuring the penalties for this antisocial behaviour are a strong deterrent to repeat offending.” Hon Steven Joyce

The Vehicle Confiscation and Seizure Bill will:

- Allow vehicles to be seized and destroyed as a new penalty for illegal street racing
- Allow vehicles repeatedly used by people with overdue traffic fines to be seized and sold to pay those fines
- Enable Police and Courts to target illegal street racers who commit offences in another person's vehicle

The Land Transport (Enforcement Powers) Amendment Bill will include provisions to:

- Allow local authorities to create bylaws that prevent vehicles repeatedly "cruising" city streets
- Allow the compulsory impoundment of vehicles involved in illegal street racing

Introduce demerit points for noise offences, licence breaches and registration plate offences. This will ensure repeat offenders will lose their licenses, rather than just accrue fines.

Copies of the bills are available on my website www.nickywagner.co.nz

And if you would like to make a submission to Select committee on the bill you will find details on the Parliament website at www.parliament.govt.nz .. please do!!



I am delighted to see this legislation - it covers all the issues that have been concerning New Zealanders over the past few years. It tightens up and gets rid of the loopholes that have been in past legislation and it focuses on creating consequences that mean something to the boy racer community. Demerit points that lead to losing your license rather than fines that remain unpaid have more deterrent value to people who love cars. And the real threat, if you are a repeat and persistent offender that your car could be crushed should encourage even the most pig-headed to change their behaviour!

Regards,

Nicky Wagner

P.S. I am always keen to hear from you, flick me an email, call my Christchurch office on 03 3658297, or pop in to my office at 189 Montreal St, Christchurch. And if you're a local do join our next Christchurch event.....

Full details are on the website www.nickywagner.co.nz

UPCOMING EVENT :

THE PRIME MINISTER'S SOUTH ISLAND FORUM

The Christchurch Press is organising a Forum with John Key on 10 June. This is a community discussion on the economy and our future, and will cover such topics as Exports, Employment, Health, Roads, Wages, Debt, Crime, Taxes, Retirement and Education. We need to have a strong presence there to support the Prime Minister in his first open forum since being elected. Please purchase a ticket – it should be a very enjoyable evening.

Date: Wednesday 10 June 2009

Time: 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm

Venue: James Hay Theatre, Christchurch Town Hall

Tickets: \$5 each from The Press building & Ticketek www.ticketek.co.nz

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