Australian Federal Police Association

Senator Nash asked the question at the hearing on 21 September 2012:

Senator NASH: Do you have any indication of how they are going to measure whether or not that has been successful?
Mr Skinner: I guess it is now forming a significant part of their operational practice and identifying risks. If risks are stamped out then I am sure that will be one of the major indicators of how successful that is.
Federal Agent Hunt-Sharman: Just on a local level, I know that in the ACT, where they have been using numberplate recognition for just looking at vehicles—whether they are licensed drivers, whether the cars are registered, whether they have got warrants out on them and so forth—it has been incredibly successful. I again can provide you some of that information, or the AFP could provide you with that information.
Senator NASH: That would be useful.

If there is no objection from the committee, I propose that the response be posted on the committee's website after 4pm tomorrow.

Response:

Recognition and **A**nalysis of **P**lates **ID**entified (RAPID) is an automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) system has been used in different and developing forms with ACT Policing since 2002. However it is during the past three years that the full utilisation of the system has been achieved.

ACT Police currently operate 16 RAPID instruments spread between Traffic Operations vehicles and vehicles at each of the five ACT Police regional police stations.

Since July 2010 there have been over 2 million scans conducted in the ACT, with an average of 1 vehicle in every 72 vehicles scanned being identified by RAPID as being of interest to ACT Police.

As an example of the benefits RAPID technology provides to the ACT community the following outcomes were achieved during the period July 2010 to February 2011:

- 540,000 vehicles were scanned
- In excess of 3200 traffic infringement notices were issued for various detected traffic offences.
    - Traffic Infringement Notices;
        - 1205 unregistered vehicles
        - 520 uninsured vehicles
        - 335 unlicensed driver
        - 64 persons not wearing a seatbelt
        - 17 unaccompanied learners
        - 238 vehicle defects (including 108 vehicles which were roadworthy
        - 201 drivers using a mobile phone
        - 108 Speeding drivers
        - 379 other traffic offences
        - 5 Stolen motor vehicles were identified.
        - 93 persons were either summonsed to appear in Court or arrested for driving whilst their licence was disqualified or suspended, or other criminal offences.

        - 17 Warrants were executed for outstanding commitment or first instance warrants.

- ACT Roads and Traffic Authority VITU (Vehicle Inspections and Technical Unit) Inspectors assist ACT Police with vehicle roadworthy compliance inspections, in joint operations.
    - VITU inspectors inspected over 2600 vehicles and issued in excess of 543 defective vehicle notices.

These outcomes continue to be produced, predominately from the task focused ACT Police Road Safety Operations Team (RSOT), supported by RAPID instruments fitted to police vehicles in each of the five ACT regions and other Traffic Operations vehicles.

To date in 2012, there have been over 600,000 scans conducted with prosecutions, traffic infringement and caution notices and other outcomes consistent with the indicated results for the July 2010 – February 2011 period.

ACT Police Traffic Operations now regularly work in conjunction with NSW Highway Patrol Police on cross border traffic focused operations. RAPID and NSW Police ANPR systems are used to detect vehicle offences for both NSW and ACT drivers. A recent example of this is a cross border operation at Marulan where ACTP and NSWPF closed all south bound lanes and conducted vehicle stops, with all vehicles subject to both NSW and ACT number plate scanning using the ANPR system.