

adelaidenow

News

Unregistered drivers face losing their home

- by: *David Jean*
- From: **The Advertiser**
- December 18, 2010 12:00AM

128 comments

[Recommend](#)[Send](#)

59 people recommend this. [Sign Up](#) to see what your friends recommend.

[Tweet](#)

0



Cameras such as this on Port Wakefield Rd at Two Wells have detected more than 11,000 unregistered vehicles since July last year. Picture: Nigel Parsons

Source: The Advertiser

THE number of motorists caught driving unregistered vehicles has hit "disturbing" levels.

Transport Department figures obtained by *The Advertiser* show 11,699 vehicles - more than 30 a day - were snapped by new fixed cameras last financial year, netting the State Government at least \$3.7 million in fines.

The alarming amount of illegal drivers has led to warnings that people could lose their homes if they were involved in a crash.

The 12 Safe-T-Cams began transferring data for unregistered and uninsured vehicles to police in July last year.

Accident Commission corporate affairs general manager Ben Tuffnell said he was astonished at the number of drivers caught out by the new technology.

He warned that the commission would do everything in its power to recoup money paid out to victims if the person at fault was unregistered and uninsured.

"That's a disturbing figure," Mr Tuffnell said. "From our perspective, it's vital that everyone registers their car because in that registration process, they are also taking out a policy of compulsory third-party insurance.

"Without that policy, if they are involved in an accident and cause injuries, then we will recover any amount we pay out.

"If you are not registered and insured and you have an accident, then you're at risk from MAC potentially taking your house to recover any money that we pay out."

The fine for driving an unregistered vehicle is \$258, while driving an uninsured vehicle incurs a further \$517 fine.

There is also a \$30 Victims of Crime Levy for each offence, meaning those caught unregistered and uninsured were slapped with \$835 fines.

Drivers have 30 days between when their registration runs out and their third-party insurance also lapses.

Mr Tuffnell said MAC would pursue all money paid out to victims via the courts and the cost to at-fault drivers could be in the millions.

"We will chase you, being the person at fault, to recover our money," he said. "Even a small whiplash accident ... can amount pretty quickly to \$50,000 or \$100,000.

"With spinal injuries or brain injuries, the cost can be many millions of dollars. In all likelihood we wouldn't recover all of that, but we would certainly do all we could to make that person pay some sort of contribution to the cost we have to pay out."

The SA Police media unit refused to provide details about how many vehicles were both unregistered and uninsured because it would tie up "resources".

Transport Minister Patrick Conlon said the number of drivers caught by Safe-T-Cams highlighted the seriousness of the problem.

"These figures show just how many drivers have been prepared to chance their hand and drive unregistered and uninsured in the past," he said.

"Those people must surely realise that they will now be caught and that it is simply not worth the risk, with hefty penalties now in place."

Mr Conlon said it was important to crack down on unregistered driving to protect those who do the right thing.

"People who are driving with full insurance and registration and are hit by another unregistered car could end up being severely out of pocket if the other driver has no ability to pay for the damage," he said.

The most prolific cameras were Globe Derby North on Port Wakefield Rd, which busted 3204 drivers, and Crafers West on the South Eastern Freeway, which caught 3023.

Crafers East snapped 2760 unregistered vehicles, while Globe Derby South busted 2128.

The State Government will abolish registration labels on cars, motorcycles and trailers from July next year.

Instead, police will be able to verify whether a car is registered on computers in patrol cars.

Share:

Tweet

59 people recommend this. [Sign Up](#) to see what your friends recommend.

Follow:

Find adelaidenow.com.au on Facebook

@adelaidenow_com_au on Twitter

adelaidenow

Search for: