



Our Ref: 63-14058
Your Ref: 1124 & 1125/2016

PERTH CORONER'S COURT

29 MAY 2016

Ms R V C Fogliani
State Coroner
Level 10, Central Law Courts
501 Hay Street
PERTH WA 6000

RECEIVED

Dear Ms Fogliani

Thank you for your letter regarding the Deputy State Coroner's Finding into the deaths of Mrs Glenys Joy Forbes and Mr Kevin Hugh Forbes, and his recommendation relating to the Western Australia Police Force Emergency Driving Policy and Guidelines.

I forwarded your correspondence, and the Deputy State Coroner's report, to the Western Australia Police Force and drew their attention to the following recommendation:

I recommend that WAPOL consider amending the Emergency Driving Policy and Guidelines to provide clear, concise instructions to police officers with respect to circumstances where commencing pursuits is and is not appropriate and where pursuits, once commenced, should be terminated.

The Western Australia Police Force provided the following advice:

- The agency's current Emergency Driving Policy (the Policy) is considered to be clear in relation to when it is appropriate for an officer to engage in an evade police incident. The Policy further provides clear instructions when an evade police incident should be terminated.
- In considering the Policy's effect on the behaviour of motorists, jurisdictions that have introduced restrictive policies have also reported changes in the behaviour of offenders. Offenders become aware of the limitations placed upon police by the policy and will seek to use the policy to avoid apprehension. This was evident when the Western Australia Police Force pursuit policy in 2002 was in effect. The policy prohibited the continuation of a pursuit under certain circumstances. When the prohibitions became public knowledge, it had the adverse effect and encouraged those risky behaviours. Those driving behaviours became the norm for evading motorists, rather than the exception and they would be undertaken earlier in a pursuit than might normally be expected.

- The Western Australia Police Force is a member agency of the Australia New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency (ANZPAA). In developing and implementing the Emergency Driving Policy and Guidelines, the Western Australia Police Force sought to give effect to the ANZPAA Police Pursuit Principles.
- The Western Australia Police Force continues to monitor trends and issues in Western Australia that require ratification, policies in other jurisdictions, coronial recommendations and findings and internal and external reviews, through the Emergency Driving Review Committee.
- The Western Australia Police Force actively seek to identify additional resolution strategies which reduce the risk to drivers and the community. For example, in April 2018, the State Government announced funding for a new police helicopter; procurement for the new police helicopter is currently underway.

Yours sincerely

**HON MICHELLE ROBERTS MLA
MINISTER FOR POLICE; ROAD SAFETY**

27 MAY 2020