



**Hobart Mercury**  
**23/07/2010**  
**Page: 3**  
**By: Danielle McKay**  
**Section: General News**  
**Region: Hobart Circulation: 45210**  
**Type: Capital City Daily**  
**Size: 225.00 sq.cms**  
**Frequency: MTWTFS-**

# Hoons taunt police

## Brazen doughnuts on station doorstep

**DANIELLE MCKAY**

HOONS are stealing cars and doing doughnuts outside police stations, attempting to lure police into deadly pursuits, says the Police Association of Tasmania.

Tough laws to lock up offenders for up to three years should be introduced to deter the dangerous behaviour, the association says.

Association president Randolph Wierenga wants the introduction of in-car cameras and StarChase technology, which allows officers to shoot a dart into a car to allow them to follow it using GPS.

The call comes as police investigate the crash of a car in the northern suburbs at the weekend in which a 21-year-old driver was badly injured. The car had been followed by police.

Sgt Wierenga said more was

needed to protect police and the public from reckless offenders, adding that the current \$250 fine for failing to stop for police was inadequate.

He said legislation introduced in NSW this year allowed up to a three-year jail term for first-time offenders who evade police and up to five years' imprisonment for second or subsequent offences.

"What we're asking for is for the State Government to improve the safety of police officers and the community in relation to police pursuits," he said. "We're asking for them to introduce new and tough laws that will actually act as a deterrent to people who engage in behaviour that causes police to pursue them."

Sgt Wierenga said police were frustrated with inadequate penalties that did not deter dangerous behaviour.

"We have offenders who deliberately steal motor vehicles and reports of them doing doughnuts outside police stations trying to entice police into a chase," he said. "They're getting away with things that they shouldn't be."

Sgt Wierenga said in-car cameras and StarChase technology were necessary.

"New technology and proper punishment is the key to making police pursuits safer, not simply giving up on people's attempts to escape the law at the risk of the community," he said.

Acting Deputy Commissioner Scott Tilyard said there were no plans to implement StarChase but police were monitoring the use of in-car video, which may be considered.

Mr Tilyard said more than 125 cars had been clamped in the past six months after drivers tried to evade police.

He said offenders could face

up to \$600 in charges.

The primary objective of the pursuit policy was to minimise risk to the public, people in offending vehicles, and police officers.

It is understood the pursuit policy says police should not speed above the limit for sustained periods, disobey traffic laws or pursue unless there is an emergency where a life is in danger, or for detection or prevention of serious crime.



**ANGRY: Randolph Wierenga**