

**Dr Marisa Paterson MLA**

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

Minister for Women

Minister for the Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence

Minister for Corrections

Minister for Gaming Reform

Member for Murrumbidgee

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Questions on Notice Paper No 7**

**16 May 2025**

**Question No. 467**

**MR RATTENBURY:** To ask the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services —

1. Given that on 8 April 2025 ACT Policing officers were involved in the pursuit of a black ute towing a trailer loaded with another ute across multiple ACT suburbs after it entered the Territory from NSW, why did ACT Policing engage in this pursuit when NSW Police had earlier called off their pursuit due to dangerous circumstances.
2. What policy or policies were ACT Policing following in making this decision.
3. What consideration was given to the driver of the vehicle and his passenger's safety, and the safety of the community in making this decision.
4. What distance did the pursued vehicle travel on footpaths, bicycle paths or verge areas, and were police still pursuing the vehicle during those periods.

**MARISA PATERSON MLA** - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. The decision to engage in a vehicle pursuit by members of ACT Policing is based on a number of factors including, but not limited to, ongoing risk to the public.

In this case, NSW Police terminated the pursuit at the border due to jurisdictional change, but continued the pursuit after notifying ACT Policing. The utility's driving manner upon entering the ACT posed a real and significant risk to the public and therefore a pursuit was activated.

2. Police powers to pursue, stop, search and seize vehicles are outlined in a range of legislation including the *Australian Federal Police Act 1979*, the *Crimes Act 1900* (ACT), and road transport legislation in the ACT. ACT Policing officers must also comply with the *Work Health and Safety Act*





2011 (Commonwealth).

Application of these powers is governed by internal Australian Federal Police policy which places primacy on the sworn duty of a police officer to protect life over the need to apprehend offenders, irrespective of the offence that has been committed or the purpose of the interception. There are also strict requirements around the training and internal licencing of advanced driving skills that support police duties, including pursuits.

Police officers must only initiate or continue a pursuit when they believe the overall harm they are seeking to prevent is greater than the risks involved in conducting the pursuit.

3. As in any instance where police officers are required to engage in an interception or pursuit of a vehicle, the primary concern in this situation was the safety of the public, bystanders and other road users not involved with the incident, the police officers involved in the incident and the occupants of the vehicle being pursued.

The ACT Policing member who activated the pursuit is highly trained in both pursuit conduct, decision making and risk assessment. This member took appropriate action make their vehicle as visible as possible in order to alert the public, including offsetting (amongst other driving tactics) and coordinating other Police patrols to maximise the public's visibility of the threat.

4. The pursued utility vehicle drove along the footpath between Bowen Drive and Lake Burley Griffin for approximately 800m, police were in pursuit at this time. The pursued utility vehicle drove along a grassed median on Canberra Avenue for approximately 550m, police were in pursuit at this time.

**Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.**

*M. Paterson*

**Marisa Paterson MLA**

**Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services**

Date: 17/6/25

This response required 5hrs to complete, at an approximate cost of \$1,069.46.