



MINISTER FOR POLICE; ROAD SAFETY; DEFENCE INDUSTRY; VETERANS ISSUES

Our Ref: 70-34344

Your Ref: A995326 – Petition No. 059

Hon Peter Foster MLC

Chair

Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs

Legislative Council Committee Office

env@parliament.wa.gov.au

Dear Hon Peter Foster MLC

PETITION NO. 059 - SAFETY AND COMPENSATION FOR PORT HEDLAND TAXI DRIVERS

The Western Australia Police Force advise that the South Hedland Police communicate regularly with the taxi industry to ensure all offences against taxi drivers and their vehicles are reported and thoroughly investigated.

Since the beginning of March 2022, 21 offences against taxi drivers or their vehicles have been reported and investigated. These investigations have resulted in a person being charged or diverted under the *Young Offenders Act 1994*.

The WA Police Force advise taxi drivers have identified areas within the Town of Port Hedland, where they have been targeted due to low lighting and overgrown public areas. In response, the Town of Port Hedland have cleared overgrown areas, improved lighting and are reviewing their CCTV coverage.

Operation Regional Shield and Operation Heat Shield 4 are currently providing additional staffing and funding support to target juvenile offending, including incidents of damage in South Hedland. The South Hedland Police have identified recidivist offenders and are working with external agencies, including the taxi industry, to minimise offending.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

HON PAUL PAPALIA CSC MLA
MINISTER FOR POLICE

18 JAN 2023