

The Courier Mail

Thurston

CLEARED



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Details » P104

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SNAPPED: OUR LEADFOOT MP

Driver takes the rap for minister

Patrick Lion

THE Cabinet minister in charge of urging Queenslanders to drive safely was caught speeding five months ago — but his government driver took the rap.

New Deputy Premier and former transport minister Paul Lucas was captured by a speed camera on Kingsford Smith Drive at Hamilton on April 15.

The offence is one of three strikes for his ministerial car in the past year — including running a red light and another speeding offence.

Explosive Queensland Police infringement notices obtained by *The Courier-Mail* show Mr Lucas's driver, Robert Lamacchia, signed statutory declarations admitting to being the one driving when the three offences occurred.

But he yesterday outed his boss over the Hamilton April 15 incident, prompting Mr Lucas to admit: "Ultimately, I've got to wear this. I apologise. I think that it is embarrassing that I sped and I've got to wear that on the chin."

The Courier-Mail can also reveal the Government's official list of traffic infringements by ministerial vehicles from last financial year includes two speeding offences by former emergency services minister Pat Purcell.



'Don't risk your life and your future — or your family's — by driving over the speed limit just to save a few minutes'

PAUL LUCAS, JUNE 23, 2007

HOT seat ... Deputy Premier Paul Lucas (passenger) and his driver yesterday.

Picture: Grant Parker

Despite his public profile surrounding road safety, Mr Lucas said he did not go public about the infringement because "a speeding ticket is a not a matter of public record, unlike a court appearance".

The revelations are the first major embarrassment for the Bligh Govern-

ment, coming just a week after Premier Anna Bligh warned her ministers to "behave".

As Transport Minister since 2004, Mr Lucas presided over the government's much-vaunted road safety campaigns encouraging motorists to slow down and obey road rules.

At 8.33am on April 15, Mr Lucas was cruising at 71km/h in a 60 zone when the camera snapped.

"He was behind the wheel," said Mr Lamacchia yesterday, who paid the fine after checking his diary and finding he had driven along the road that day.

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REVEALED: The detail of his and other ministerial traffic infringements »P4-5



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The search for a dumped toddler's father becomes a murder manhunt.

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A US student is shocked with a stun gun for disrupting a senator's forum.

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Lying about the price of a purchase has turned from a sin to a hobby.

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Business

Sharemarkets recover almost \$36 billion thanks to US interest rate cuts.

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Sport

Wanted: a golfer prepared to help Nick O'Hern represent Australia.

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Weather

Cairns	Fine	30°
Townsville	Fine	29°
Rockhampton	Fine	30°
Toowoomba	Fine	25°
Sunshine Cst	Warm	29°
Gold Coast	Warm	28°

Brisbane Dry, gusty winds

30°

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