

News Release Deputy Premier John Rau

Attorney General
Minister for Planning
Minister for Industrial Relations
Minister for Business Services and Consumers

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New fines payment unit to crackdown on fine dodgers

A dedicated new fines payment unit with the task of recovering millions of dollars in unpaid overdue fines opens today.

Attorney General John Rau said the new Fines Enforcement and Recovery Unit will seek to reel-in the \$268 million in outstanding fines currently owed in South Australia.

“People who do not pay their fines are denying law-abiding South Australians further funds for essential services,” Mr Rau said.

“To crack down on fine dodgers, this new unit will be enforcing a range of tough enforcement measures, such as suspension of driver licences, seizing of property, public shaming, car clamping, and even garnishment of wages and salaries.”

“People who have been deliberately avoiding their fines should no longer stick their head in the sand.”

“The Unit will also make it much simpler for those who want to do the right thing and pay their outstanding fines.”

Over 100 agencies across the state will lodge overdue fines with the unit including local councils, SA Police and several State Government departments.

These overdue fines will range from parking and traffic fines, through to environmental, animal management and liquor licensing fines.

Currently there are 123,937 people with overdue fines in South Australia and 55 per cent of these people have more than one fine.

Of the \$268 million in outstanding fines:

- \$152 million is either not overdue or subject to payment instalments.
- \$116 million is overdue and is not subject to a payment instalment arrangement.

Director of the Fines Enforcement and Recovery Unit, John Ovenstone said that from today it will be easier for people to pay their fines.

“We have made it easier for people to pay their fines with convenient and more payment methods including online, Bpay, and in person payments at Australia Post, Service SA and the fines unit customer service centre, and 24/7 phone payments,” Mr Ovenstone said.

“A variety payment plans are also now available to assist people and companies that cannot pay their fine in a lump sum.

“Vulnerable South Australians and people who suffer from financial hardship may also benefit from a specific payment plan which can be direct debited from Centrelink payments.

“In coming months we will be targeting people and companies with old, overdue fines so South Australians are encouraged to be proactive now and seek assistance from our highly trained staff to get on top of their debt prior to our enforcement.

“With all of these options and conveniences now available there really is no excuse for not paying your fines.”

The Fines Enforcement and Recovery Unit is located on level 15, 45 Grenfell Street Adelaide. For more information about the new unit, including fine payment options, visit www.fines.sa.gov.au or call 1800 659 538.