

Deputy Premier John Rau

Attorney-General

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No excuse for not paying fines

The Fines Enforcement and Recovery Unit is making it easier for South Australians to pay their fines with more payment methods on offer and changes to their website.

Attorney General John Rau said there are now easy to use online tools and payments options available.

“These changes mean people can opt to pay overdue fines in full, set or vary payment arrangements and lodge pre-enforced fines all via the website,” he said.

“There really is no excuse for not paying fines.

“A key change to payment options will now also enable people to lodge pre-enforced fines online that are not yet overdue, such as a speeding fine issued from police, and make suitable payment arrangements.

“In the last 14 months we have seen more people being proactive about getting on top of their debt before it severely escalates and we expect this to continue to improve with the all the options now available.

“The Fines Unit has received over 334,000 phone calls from people wishing to address their fines, with more than 242,000 payment arrangements made.”

Following complaints about delays due to of a high volume of calls extra funding was provided to boost staff numbers, improve technology and cut call waiting times.

“Currently the average time it takes for a caller to get through to the Fines Unit is six minutes and further enhancements will see this time reduce further in the near future.”

Mr Rau said the Fines Unit has made significant progress in holding people accountable for their overdue fines.

“The unit has collected more than \$118 million in overdue fines - an increase of \$15.4 million - since opening its doors on 3 February 2014,” he said.

“This is 15 per cent more when compared to the same period last year under the previous debt collection system.

“We have implemented tough enforcement measures including suspension of driver’s licences, car clamping, public naming and shaming, and seizing of property.

“To date, the Fines Unit has applied 157,000 driver’s licence suspensions and has placed nearly 320,000 restrictions that prevent people from renewing their licence or register their vehicle.

“The Fines Unit has also issued 21 clamping orders of vehicles owned or driven by fine dodgers since this measure was introduced last August.

“People who have been deliberately avoiding their fines can no longer stick their head in the sand to avoid the consequences.”