

## NLAF Fines and Traffic Law Working Group Report

The Fines and Traffic Law Working Group (FTLWG) met on 15 May 2019. Nadine Miles chaired this meeting in my absence.

### **Guest Speaker: Commissioner Stephen Brady (Chief Commissioner of State Revenue, Commissioner of Fines Administration, and Deputy Secretary of Revenue NSW)**

Commissioner Stephen Brady kindly accepted our invitation to attend the FTLWG meeting. Ms Ann King, Director of the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation, was also in attendance. Mr Brady gave a presentation on “Fairer Digital Fines”, providing the group with an update on the work they are doing to improve customer experience, change behaviour and create a fairer fines process. For example, Revenue NSW has reviewed, updated and re-published review guidelines that they hope will assist customers to navigate and self-assess the likely merit of their review.

Mr Brady identified several ideas that Revenue NSW is considering and reviewing in 2019. These include waiver of the enforcement order fee when a customer voluntarily enters into a payment plan; allowing requests for internal review or nominate driver responsible during the enforcement process; allowing overpayment against penalty notices/enforcement orders to be automatically assigned to another other outstanding fines. They are also considering the option for the Commissioner to write off remaining payment plans for low income customers who have made their repayments over 2 years or have paid 80% of the original balance without default or reoffending. The foregone revenue is estimated to be \$0.1m per annum for the NSW Government, and \$0.1m per annum for commercial partners.

### **Submission to NSW Sentencing Council on Repeat Traffic Offenders**

NLAF’s response to the Sentencing Council’s consultation paper on [Repeat Traffic Offenders](#), as drafted by the Fines and Traffic Law Working Group on NLAF’s behalf, was submitted on 29 March 2019. A copy of the final submission is **attached**.

### **Prisoners and Identification Documents Subcommittee**

The subcommittee met on 14 May 2019, chaired by Julianne Evans (Revenue NSW). Several representatives met with the Registrar of Births, Deaths & Marriages to discuss the possibility of free or discounted birth certificates to prisoners. The Registrar will consider this request if we are able to provide an estimate of the number of birth certificates required. The criteria, protocol and process for estimation, and the criteria for approval are being considered. Recommendations will be taken back to the Registrar for decision.

### **Next meeting**

The next FTLWG meeting will be held on 14 August 2019.

Meredith Osborne  
Chair, Fines & Traffic Law Working Group