

Drivers closer to losing licences

DAVID NANKERVIS

THE number of motorists one low-level speeding fine away from losing their licence has more than tripled since the State Government increased demerit point penalties for the offence last year.

Almost 4000 motorists are within two demerit points of losing their licence after the penalty for speeding up to 10km/h over the limit was doubled from one point from September 1.

In June last year the number of motorists within one point - the previous penalty - for low level speeding was about 1300. Drivers can be disqualified if they accumulate 12 or more demerit points in any three-year period.

The Government changed the demerit point system in September as part of its strategy to cut road casualties.

Among the changes to speeding fines in September was doubling the demerit points from 1 for speeding less than 10km/h but reducing the fine from \$260 to \$150.

Mayor stands by evicted tenants

HEATHER KENNETT
GUARDIAN MESSENGER

HOLDFAST Bay Mayor Ken Rollond has again broken ranks with his elected members, saying they lack "empathy" over a council decision to evict 40 permanent residents from Brighton Caravan Park.

Dr Rollond, who has a history of speaking out against council decisions, told a council meeting that an upgrade of the park could have been achieved without evicting tenants.

"I believe the council could be more empathetic and overcome these problems without causing the degree of distress and still achieve the project that you want," he said.

"I clearly have a different perception on life than the vast majority here," he told the meeting. "I cannot understand why the council has no empathy with these people."

The council plans to revamp the seafront park, adding up to 20 cabins, 12 eco-style tents, a leisure area and an upgraded



UNDERSTANDING: Holdfast Bay Mayor Ken Rollond with caravan park residents Arie and Eileen Groenenberg. **Picture:** STEPHEN LAFFER

kiosk. Work will start after the tenants' leases expire on July 1.

There was also criticism of elected members in a letter Dr Rollond sent to Holdfast Bay chief executive Justin Lynch on February 24.

Dr Rollond informed coun-

cillors of the letter, a copy of which was obtained by the *Guardian Messenger*, at the council's February 26 meeting.

Dr Rollond was on leave from the council when the park upgrade was approved in January and when a group of

park residents pleaded with councillors to reverse their decision last month.

A caravan park resident seated in the public gallery wiped away tears as Dr Rollond spoke.

"It's such a relief to hear someone from the council offer us some support," the resident, who asked to remain anonymous, said.

Councillor Mikki Bouchee asked Dr Rollond if he was speaking in his capacity as mayor or as an individual.

"All I'm doing is publicly declaring my position as a person, and it says this quite clearly, and I also acknowledge this opinion is not the same as the council's position," Dr Rollond said.

After the meeting, Councillor Rosemary Clancy, who was acting mayor in Dr Rollond's absence, said his comments were disappointing.

"It is my understanding that all members of council have empathy, it is not just the jurisdiction of Mayor Rollond," she said.

School councils 'unaware' of checks


SHERADYN
HOLDERHEAD

MANY of the state's public school governing councils do not realise they must ensure that non-teaching staff and volunteers are police checked, a peak parents group says.

South Australian Association of State School Organisations executive director David Knuckey said every year he was shocked by the number of school governing councils which were surprised they required criminal history checks.

"Or that staff and volunteers in the services they operate - OSHC (out-of-school hours care) and canteen must have police checks," he said. Mr Knuckey said all members of governing councils must have checks because they made decisions and policies that affect children in their schools.

SA Primary Principals Association president Steve Portlock said principals were clear that any volunteers who work with students must have police checks.



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