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Movie fuels driver fears

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MARK WORLEY
April 19, 2009 07:32am

A MOVIE glamorising dangerous driving and street racing does not sit well for Tasmania's road safety stakeholders.

Road safety advocates are warning Tasmanians to take heed of the state's horrific road toll when they flock to cinemas in their thousands for the opening weekend of Hollywood blockbuster *Fast & Furious*.

The fourth instalment of *The Fast and the Furious* film franchise, which re-unites original stars Vin Diesel and Paul Walker, opened in Tasmania on Thursday.

It is expected to be the biggest drawcard for moviegoers around the state this week, after taking \$71 million at the US cinema box office in its opening weekend.

But Tasmania's road safety stakeholders are horrified by the 2009 road toll climbing to 27.

Infrastructure Minister Graeme Sturges said people needed to make sure they separated Hollywood hype from reality.

"No matter how appealing Hollywood makes illegal driving, impressionable drivers need to remember there is no glamour in being a road statistic," he said.

"Anyone going to see this movie, particularly young people who are prone to risk-taking behaviour, needs to be very clear that the stunts portrayed in this type of film have absolutely no place on our roads.

"Tasmania's road toll this year demonstrates all too clearly what can happen when people take risks on our roads and ignore the need to drive to conditions, not drink and drive, not speed and not wear seat belts.

The Road Safety Task Force conducted a road safety campaign at Tasmanian cinemas during the release of *The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift* in 2006.

While they won't actively campaign in cinemas this year, chairman Paul Hogan says the road safety message should not be lost.

"It's not that we are ignoring it by not having the program in cinemas, it's just that we have decided not to do it this time around," he said.

"We definitely don't want people acting as copycats, or mimicking the actions of irresponsible driver behaviour.

"People have to remember when they are on the roads that they are not the actors in a movie or on a television show."

Tasmanian Road Trauma Support Network spokesman Graeme Lunson said, much like simulator video games, people needed to remember they were going to the cinema for entertainment -- not to learn bad driving behaviour.

The state's road toll for 2009 is 27, which is 12 higher than the same period last year.

↳ Powered by Diesel – Diwell's review

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I went and saw the movie yesterday with 2 friends and i drove my own car.. not only is it ridiculous to think that people who go and see something for entertainment value will speed afterwards its ridiculous because this is targeted at young person.I am a P Plate driver in a reasonably nice care and i would not jeopardise my car, insurance or my friends lives by being wreckless. Have some faith in younger drivers. its uneducated idiots who do the damage and evo from out of town is right speed camera revenue should be used on education.. but maybe not just on young people older people too

Posted by: **Jess of Eastern Shore** 5:20pm Monday

nicole of tassie. We're currently having a bogan amnesty. Now is the time to turn yourself in.

Posted by: **Tasmanians Against Bogans of TAB** 5:15pm Monday

Evo of Out of Town, I just need your address and a coat hanger.

Posted by: **bogan of yourplace** 1:53pm Monday

What a croc! I was just waiting for the 'They should ban it' brigade to tell us something else we cant look at or we might copy it, you know if the rev heads are gonna do a wheelie there going to do it anyway, just let the police do there job and book'em and take their cars off them, don't spoil it for the people that like to watch these movies that still have half a brain and can tell right from wrong. O r you best be banning any T.V-Movies that has that and drug use, alcohol use, etc...etc...stuff like the Simpsons...

Posted by: **nicole of tassie** 1:44pm Monday

Evo - what series?

Posted by: **Tiso of Hobart** 1:31pm Monday

As the name should tell you, I drive one of the cars that made this series famous and love watching the movies, but that doesn't mean after spending that much money on a car that I am going to do something stupid. It is a film for entertainment and that is what it is. Give us some credit and use the money from speed cameras to educate those who are stupid enough not to understand and perform correct road safety.

Posted by: **Evo of Out of Town** 12:21pm Monday

S.Caine of elsewhere; on the grog still? Oh deer, a doe on the roads? Moron's slip of the brain?

Posted by: **toldd rode of tasmania** 11:24am Monday

2jz no shit! these films are over the top, adrenaline fuelled action movie. Anyone with an ounce of reality would not be taking these seriously. i mean... they picked CIVICS to hijack trucks with....

Posted by: **Tiso of Hobart** 9:08am Monday

Ahh another bogan-flick. Crap like this leaves a skid mark on the brain...and the car park at your local cinema. I'm sure it will be very popular in Tasmania...the bogan state.

Posted by: **Tasmanians Against Bogans of TAB** 3:22pm Sunday

Is this article serious? Graeme Sturges are YOU serious!? You are worried about people WATCHING a movie? Surely you have more important things to worry about? Getting your name in the paper and seeming to care must be good though eh?

Posted by: **Realist** 12:38pm Sunday

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