

nzh Join the conversation.
Become a fan on facebook.



HELP US QUIET
THE SOUNDS OF PERTUSSIS

Watch Video ▶



The New Zealand Herald

nzherald.co.nz

SATURDAY OCTOBER 10, 2009
2:36AM NZT

Make us your homepage

nzherald.co.nz Web

News Business Sport Technology Entertainment Life & Style Travel Blogs Your Views Property Motoring Jobs
National World Weather Politics Crime Health Environment Science Opinion Cartoons Sideswipe

National

Share Print Email RSS

Sedatives included in drink-driving Act

1:57PM Tuesday Oct 06, 2009

The Government is bringing forward the start date for legislation on drugged-driving and is including some sedatives and anti-anxiety medication.

Transport Minister Steven Joyce said he was bringing forward by a month the start date for changes to legislation tackling drugged driving to November 1.

The Land Transport Amendment Act 2009 passed in June created a new offence for drivers impaired by drugs, introduced compulsory testing for suspected drugged-drivers and allowed blood testing for drugs.

Banned substances while driving would now include benzodiazepines – sedatives and anti-anxiety medications which can impair driving ability.

"When the legislation was passed in June drugged driving campaigners raised concerns around the exclusion of benzodiazepines," Mr Joyce said.

"I asked officials to look into it and they reported that this class of drugs should not be excluded from the legislation.

"With the support of most parties in Parliament the change to include benzodiazepines will be made this month as an addition to the Illegal Street Racing legislation."

Mr Joyce said police had indicated they were ready to implement changes and there was no reason to delay.

The new start date coincides with a ban on using hand-held mobile phones while driving.

"The drugged driving legislation is only aimed at drivers who pose a road safety risk. A driver who is not impaired will not be affected by this law," Mr Joyce said.

– NZPA

Ads by Google

Guaranteed Drug Rehab

1-on-1 Drug Rehab Program 2 CA Locations, Insurance Accepted
www.PassagesMalibu.com/

Majormatch.com

Partnering to find your future.
www.majormatch.com

Facing a DUI Charge?

Don't Risk Losing Your License! Speak With A DUI Attorney Today.
www.TotalLawyers.com

Too old to drive?

We give loved ones an option. Chauffeurs for a senior's own car.
www.WeDriveU.com

National Headlines

- Auckland bus impasse to continue into weekend
 - Political pressure forces Maori TV to change bid
 - Cardno father, stepmother guilty of 14-year-old's rape
 - Hospital favoured as drop-off point for missing toddler [VIDEO](#) [PHOTOS](#)
 - Auckland DHBs consider return to Diagnostic Medlab
 - Cop who peppersprayed cyclist to face trial
 - Baby back in NZ after premature birth in Samoa [PHOTOS](#) [VIDEO](#)
 - Third of swine flu patients in ICUs otherwise healthy - study
 - Mother's tears say it all [VIDEO](#) [PHOTOS](#)
 - *Brian Rudman*: Agency's \$1.29 credibility toll
 - Other products in spotlight as cold and flu tablets restricted
 - Danger signs go up after dog dies
 - Toddler's lookalikes spark calls to police [VIDEO](#) [PHOTOS](#)
 - Bus lockout sends commuters to trains
 - Peters: NZ First in 2011 bid to save country [PHOTOS](#)
 - Farmers brace for snow [PHOTOS](#)
 - City salutes education and sports leader
 - Aisling victim of an opportunist, police say [VIDEO](#) [PHOTOS](#)
 - Doctors attack climate change stance
 - Maori Party co-leaders free to support Field, says Key [PHOTOS](#)
 - Intervention, but buses stay off roads
 - Wiki on side for Samoa
 - Off-licence liquor stores remain on council's list
 - Auckland moves up world uni ranking
 - Ambassador to NZ Obama's first gay posting
- [More National](#)

HELP US
QUIET THE
SOUNDS OF
PERTUSSIS



Watch Video ▶

SOUNDS OF PERTUSSIS
MKT17804-1 9/09

Ads by Google

Related Tags

What's this?

Driving offences Drug abuse Legislation Road safety
Australasia New Zealand Land Transport NZ Ministry of Transport

Join the conversation
Become a fan on

facebook.

Northland

Too old to drive?

We give loved ones an option. Chauffeurs for a senior's own car.
www.WeDriveU.com

Antarctica 50% Off Sale

New Expedition Ship.
Depart Oct 31. Limited Time Offer. Book Online!
www.GapAdventures.com/Antarctica

Print this story Email this story IM this story