WA’s ‘Double or Nothing’ law will improve the behaviour of bad drivers.

Or it’ll keep them off the road for twice as long.
Under Western Australia’s Double or Nothing law, drivers who lose their licence through a demerit point disqualification will no longer be able to apply for an Extraordinary Licence. And they may face DOUBLE the time off the road.

**What is Double or Nothing?**

Double or Nothing is an option that eligible drivers with 12 or more demerit points can elect once they have been served an Excessive Demerit Points Notice.

By electing the Double or Nothing option a driver can continue to drive on a 12 month Good Behaviour Period. However, if they accrue more than one demerit point in the 12 month Good Behaviour Period or if they commit an offence which results in a disqualification, they will be disqualified for DOUBLE the original disqualification period.

Under the law Extraordinary Licences are no longer available for demerit point disqualifications.

**Why was this introduced?**

Double or Nothing was introduced as part of a larger program of change which will see Western Australia’s licensing system become more closely aligned with other Australian jurisdictions.

Double or Nothing is really about improving driver behaviour in the long term. The option already exists in other States/Territories and their statistics show that a high number of disqualified drivers who took the second chance offer did not commit any further offences.

**Who is eligible for the Double or Nothing option?**

All Western Australian driver’s licence holders can elect to take the Double or Nothing option, unless:

- They do not hold a current WA driver’s licence.
- They hold a provisional driver’s licence.
- They are currently disqualified from driving.
- Their licence is invalid for any other reason.
- Their licence is under fines suspension. (If the fines are paid to clear this suspension within the 21 day election deadline a driver can elect to drive on Good Behaviour Period.)

**How do I make a Good Behaviour Period election?**

Once an eligible driver has been served an Excessive Demerit Points Notice, they can elect to continue to drive by submitting a Good Behaviour Period election form at any Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS) centre, regional DVS agent, online at www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs or by post to PO Box 8090, Perth Business Centre WA 6894.

DVS must receive the election form within 21 days of a driver being served an Excessive Demerit Points Notice. Once this deadline has lapsed a driver can no longer elect to continue to drive, therefore the disqualification will begin 28 days following the service of the Excessive Demerit Points Notice or on the termination of any period of disqualification or suspension (including fines suspension) the driver may be subject to **WHICHEVER IS THE LATTER.**
What if I don’t want to take the Double or Nothing option?

If you are served an Excessive Demerit Points Notice and do not want to take the Double or Nothing option, the disqualification period will start 28 days after the Excessive Demerit Points Notice was served, or on the termination of any period of disqualification or suspension (including fines suspension) you may be subject to - WHICHEVER IS THE LATTER. If you choose this option, you will not need to notify DVS.

Can I make an election if I am currently driving with an Extraordinary Licence?

If you are already driving on an Extraordinary Licence and you get a subsequent demerit point disqualification, you can still elect the Double or Nothing option. However, the Good Behaviour Period will be postponed until the disqualification period related to your Extraordinary Driver’s Licence has ended.

The table below shows how this will work:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of demerit points</th>
<th>Period of disqualification</th>
<th>Period of disqualification if you breach the Good Behaviour Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 - 15 points</td>
<td>3 months</td>
<td>6 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 - 19 points</td>
<td>4 months</td>
<td>8 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 or more points</td>
<td>5 months</td>
<td>10 months</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For a list of offences and their relevant demerit point penalties, please see the Drive Safe book. (Available from Forms and Publications at www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs.)

Can I change my mind once I have made my election?

No. Once you have elected to take the Double or Nothing option, you cannot reverse your decision. You must drive for 12 months under the Good Behaviour Period conditions.

What offences breach the Good Behaviour Period?

If you commit certain driving offences during the 12 month Good Behaviour Period, you will be disqualified for DOUBLE the original disqualification as the conditions of the Good Behaviour Period will have been breached.

The following will breach the Good Behaviour Period:

- Accrue more than one demerit point for offences committed during the Good Behaviour Period.
- Commit an offence during the Good Behaviour Period that results in a disqualification.

If you breach the Good Behaviour Period, you will be disqualified for DOUBLE the length of the original demerit point disqualification.

You will not be able to apply for an Extraordinary Licence after breaching this period.
Practical Example of how Double or Nothing will work
The below is an example to help explain how the system works.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>John commits a driving offence which accrues 3 demerit points.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>He already has 10 demerit points so he is served an Excessive Demerit Points Notice as he now has a total of 13 points. He can:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Accept the disqualification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Elect to take the Double or Nothing option and continue to drive within the Good Behaviour Period</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accept the disqualification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For 13 demerit points, John would be disqualified from driving for 3 months.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elect to take the Good Behaviour Period option</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>He fills out the election form online. The Department must have received John’s election within 21 days of him being served his Excessive Demerit Points Notice.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| If John is currently driving on an Extraordinary Drivers Licence, he can still elect to take the Good Behaviour Period option. The Good Behaviour Period will not begin until his current disqualification has ended. |

Disqualification begins
28 days after being served the Excessive Demerit Points Notice, the 3 month disqualification begins.

Good Behaviour Period begins
28 days after John was served the Excessive Demerit Points Notice, the Good Behaviour Period begins.

Once John makes his election, he cannot change his mind.

After 3 months John is allowed to drive again
The demerit points he accrued for this disqualification are removed from his record.

John can continue to drive under the Good Behaviour Period
This period lasts for 12 months.

If John accrues more than 1 demerit point, the Good Behaviour Period is breached.
After being served his Good Behaviour Period breach notice, he will be disqualified for double the amount of time. He is now disqualified for 6 months.

John drives for 12 months without committing any more driving offences
The Good Behaviour Period ends. The demerit points he accrued for this disqualification are removed from his record.

For more information on Double or Nothing or any of the other National Drivers Licence Scheme changes visit www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs or call 13 11 56.