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Courts & Justice WA News

Paul Mulligan: Drunk-driver who left cyclist for dead jailed for three years over ‘callous’ actions



Hannah Cross The West Australian
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Hannah Cross



Paul Patrick Mulligan pictured outside District Court. Credit: Stuart Quinn/The West Australian

A “callous” drunk-driver hit a cyclist and left him for dead because he feared the consequences had police caught him drink-driving, a court has been told.

when he got behind the wheel of his silver Hyundai Getz about 7.37pm.

Three minutes later on Belmont Road in Kenwick, he struck cyclist Corey Duncan with such force the rider became airborne, before suffering a significant head injury that would prove fatal.



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The District Court was told Mulligan waited about 10 seconds after the collision before slowly driving away, as Mr Duncan lay on the pavement fighting for life. He succumbed to his injuries a week later.

On Thursday, District Court Judge Gary Massey jailed the 65-year-old for three years and three months for being the driver involved in an incident occasioning death and failing to report it to WA Police, and being a driver who failed to stop and ensure assistance was received after an incident occasioning death.

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He was set to defend his actions at trial in August, but changed his plea to guilty just

“Mr Mulligan made a callous decision, a selfish decision to leave, knowing if police had come he’d have been found to have been drink-driving,” State prosecutor Elisabeth Noonan said.

“He knew he was going to be in serious trouble if he had hit a person, so he left to avoid that consequence.”



Paul Patrick Mulligan pictured outside District Court. Credit: Stuart Quinn/The West Australian

The court was told Mulligan heard a radio report the next day about an alleged hit-and-run, which prompted him to tell three different stories to neighbours and friends about the smashed windscreen on his Getz.

He told a friend the morning after he may need to borrow his car because he had a crack in his windscreen after he'd hit a kangaroo.

He then told a neighbour who noticed his damaged windscreen that someone had thrown something into the windscreen as he was driving past a Bunnings store.

Another friend, who noticed he was driving a different car, was told a big black bin was thrown at his car the night before.

An expert report provided to the court estimated that after eight or nine cans of VB, a man of Mulligan's age, weight and stature would likely have blown .176 to .202 — three to four times the legal blood alcohol limit — had he been tested following the crash.

He would also have shown "clinical symptoms of alcohol intoxication", it said.

It was also revealed in court that Mulligan, who was a truck driver for more than four decades until the offending, had previously had his licence disqualified for drink-driving after a truck rollover in 2020.



Paul Patrick Mulligan pictured outside District Court. Credit: Stuart Quinn/The West Australian

Judge Massey said Mulligan's offending was "simply too serious" not to incur an immediate term of imprisonment.

Mulligan held his head in his hands as the judge delivered his sentence.

"You feared that your alcohol consumption would be detected. That is a significant aggravating factor here," he said.

"When you left (the scene) you could not have known that others would come to his (Mr Duncan's) assistance.

"You could not have known the extent of his injuries, nor could you have known if your assistance could have made a difference to his injuries."

Judge Massey said the lies Mulligan subsequently told were "clearly designed to conceal your involvement in any offences".

He was sentenced to three years and three months in prison and will be eligible for parole after serving half of his sentence. His licence was also disqualified for three years.

Mr Duncan's family members, who were present in court for sentencing, said they were disappointed by the length of Mulligan's sentence.



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