



New South Wales

Road Legislation Amendment (Speed Limits) Bill 2025

Explanatory note

This explanatory note relates to this Bill as introduced into Parliament.

Overview of Bill

The object of this Bill is to amend—

- (a) the *Road Rules 2014* to provide for lower maximum speed limits for particular areas or zones that may be indicated on particular speed limit signs, and
- (b) the *Road Transport Act 2013* to require a review of the operation of the legislation governing speed limit signs.

Outline of provisions

Clause 1 sets out the name, also called the short title, of the proposed Act.

Clause 2 provides for the commencement of the proposed Act.

Schedule 1 Amendment of Road Rules 2014

Schedule 1[3] inserts proposed rule 21–1(2A) to provide for the maximum speed limit that may be indicated by a school bus stop zone sign, being 30 kilometres per hour. **Schedule 1[2]** makes a consequential amendment.

Schedule 1[5] inserts proposed rule 23(1A) to provide for the maximum speed limit that may be indicated by a school zone sign, being 30 kilometres per hour. **Schedule 1[4]** makes a consequential amendment.

Schedule 1[6] inserts proposed rule 24(1A) to provide for the maximum speed limit that may be indicated by a shared zone sign, being 10 kilometres per hour.

Schedule 1[7] inserts proposed rules 24–1A and 24–1B. Proposed rule 24–1A provides that the speed limit applying in a high pedestrian activity area is the speed limit indicated on a high pedestrian activity area sign on a road into the area. The proposed rule also provides for the maximum speed limit that may be indicated by a high pedestrian activity area sign, being 30 kilometres per hour. Proposed rule 24–1B provides that the speed limit applying in a local traffic area is the speed limit indicated on a local traffic area sign on a road into the area. The proposed rule also provides for the maximum speed limit that may be indicated by a local traffic area sign, being 30 kilometres per hour. **Schedule 1[1] and [9]–[16]** make consequential amendments.

Schedule 1[8] replaces rule 25(2) to provide for a lower maximum for the default speed limit that applies to a driver on a length of road in a built-up area, being 30 kilometres per hour.

Schedule 2 Amendment of Road Transport Act 2013 No 18

Schedule 2 requires the Minister to review the operation of the legislation governing speed limit signs.



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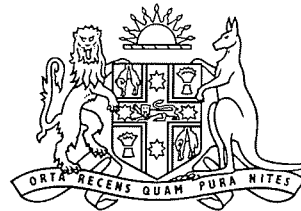
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This PUBLIC BILL, originated in the LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY and, having this day passed, is now ready for presentation to the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL for its concurrence.

Legislative Assembly

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly



New South Wales

Road Legislation Amendment (Speed Limits) Bill 2025

No , 2025

A Bill for

An Act to amend the *Road Rules 2014* to reduce maximum speed limits for various areas and zones; to amend the *Road Transport Act 2013* to require a review of the operation of the legislation governing speed limit signs; and for related purposes.

The LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL has this day agreed to this Bill with/without amendment.

Legislative Council

Clerk of the Parliaments

Tabling copy

The Legislature of New South Wales enacts—	1
1 Name of Act	2
This Act is the <i>Road Legislation Amendment (Speed Limits) Act 2025</i> .	3
2 Commencement	4
This Act commences as follows—	5
(a) for Schedule 1—on the day that is 12 months after the date of assent to this Act,	6
(b) for Schedule 2—on the date of assent to this Act.	7
	8

Schedule 1 Amendment of Road Rules 2014

[1] Rule 20 Obeying the speed limit

Insert in appropriate order in rule 20, note 1—

- rule 24–1A—NSW rule: speed limit in a high pedestrian activity area
- rule 24–1B—NSW rule: speed limit in a local traffic area

[2] Rule 21–1, heading

Omit the heading. Insert instead—

21–1 NSW rule: speed limit on a school bus stop zone sign

[3] Rule 21–1

Insert after rule 21–1(2), note—

- (2A) The speed limit indicated on a *school bus stop zone sign* must not be more than 30 kilometres per hour.

[4] Rule 22 Speed limit in a speed limited area

Omit “40 kilometres per hour” from rule 22(1), Example of another speed limit.

Insert instead “30 kilometres per hour”.

[5] Rule 23 Speed limit in a school zone

Insert after rule 23(1), note 3—

- (1A) The speed limit indicated on a *school zone sign* must not be more than 30 kilometres per hour.

Note— This subrule is an additional NSW subrule. There is no corresponding subrule in rule 23 of the Australian Road Rules.

[6] Rule 24 Speed limit in a shared zone

Insert after rule 24(1), note—

- (1A) The speed limit indicated on a *shared zone sign* must not be more than 10 kilometres per hour.

Note— This subrule is an additional NSW subrule. There is no corresponding subrule in rule 24 of the Australian Road Rules.

[7] Rules 24–1A and 24–1B

Insert after rule 24—

24–1A NSW rule: speed limit in a high pedestrian activity area

- (1) The speed limit applying to a driver for a length of road in a high pedestrian activity area is the number of kilometres per hour indicated by the number on the *high pedestrian activity area sign* on a road, or the road, into the area.
- (2) The speed limit indicated on a *high pedestrian activity area sign* must not be more than 30 kilometres per hour.
- (3) A *high pedestrian activity area* is—
 - (a) if there is a *high pedestrian activity area sign* and a speed limit sign with a different number on the sign, on a road and there is no intersection on the length of road between the signs—that length of road, or

	(b)	if there is a <i>high pedestrian activity area sign</i> on a road that ends in a dead end and there is no intersection, nor a sign mentioned in paragraph (a), on the length of road beginning at the sign and ending at the dead end—that length of road, or	1 2 3 4
	(c)	in any other case—the network of roads in an area with—	5
	(i)	a <i>high pedestrian activity area sign</i> on each road into the area, indicating the same number, and	6 7
	(ii)	a speed limit sign indicating a different number, on each road out of the area.	8 9
	Note 1	— An example of a <i>high pedestrian activity area sign</i> is included in Schedule 3.	10
	Note 2	— This rule is an additional NSW road rule. There is no corresponding rule in the Australian Road Rules.	11 12
24–1B	NSW rule: speed limit in a local traffic area		13
	(1)	The speed limit applying to a driver for a length of road in a local traffic area is the number of kilometres per hour indicated by the number on the <i>local traffic area sign</i> on a road, or the road, into the area.	14 15 16
	(2)	The speed limit indicated on a <i>local traffic area sign</i> must not be more than 30 kilometres per hour.	17 18
	(3)	A <i>local traffic area</i> is—	19
	(a)	if there is a <i>local traffic area sign</i> and an <i>end local traffic area sign</i> , or a speed limit sign with a different number on the sign, on a road and there is no intersection on the length of road between the signs—that length of road, or	20 21 22 23
	(b)	if there is a <i>local traffic area sign</i> on a road that ends in a dead end and there is no intersection, nor a sign mentioned in paragraph (a), on the length of road beginning at the sign and ending at the dead end—that length of road, or	24 25 26 27
	(c)	in any other case—the network of roads in an area with—	28
	(i)	a <i>local traffic area sign</i> on each road into the area, indicating the same number, and	29 30
	(ii)	an <i>end local traffic area sign</i> , or a speed limit sign indicating a different number, on each road out of the area.	31 32
	Note 1	— Examples of a <i>local traffic area sign</i> and an <i>end local traffic area sign</i> are included in Schedule 3.	33 34
	Note 2	— This rule is an additional NSW road rule. There is no corresponding rule in the Australian Road Rules.	35 36
[8]	Rule 25 Speed limit elsewhere		37
		Omit rule 25(2) and note. Insert instead—	38
	(2)	The <i>default speed limit</i> applying to a driver for a length of road in a built-up area is 30 kilometres per hour.	39 40
	Note 1	— <i>Built-up area</i> is defined in the Dictionary.	41
	Note 2	— This subrule is not uniform with the corresponding subrule in rule 25 of the Australian Road Rules. Different rules may apply in other Australian jurisdictions.	42 43
[9]	Schedule 3 Non-standard traffic signs used in NSW		44
		Omit “Area speed limit sign (rule 22)” where firstly occurring.	45
		Insert instead “Local traffic area sign (rule 24–1A)”.	46

[10] Schedule 3, as amended by item [9]	1
Relocate the matter relating to Local traffic area sign (rule 24–1A) in alphabetical order.	2
[11] Schedule 3	3
Omit “ Area speed limit sign (rule 22) ” where secondly occurring.	4
Insert instead “ High pedestrian activity area sign (rule 24–1B) ”.	5
[12] Schedule 3, as amended by item [11]	6
Relocate the matter relating to High pedestrian activity area sign (rule 24–1B) in alphabetical order.	7 8
[13] Schedule 3	9
Omit “ End area speed limit sign (rule 22) ” where firstly occurring.	10
Insert instead “ End local traffic area sign (rule 24–1A) ”.	11
[14] Schedule 3, as amended by item [13]	12
Relocate the matter relating to End local traffic area sign (rule 24–1A) in alphabetical order.	13 14
[15] Schedule 3	15
Omit “ Speed limit sign (rule 21) ” where fourthly occurring.	16
Insert instead “ High pedestrian activity area sign (rule 24–1B) ”	17
[16] Schedule 3, as amended by item [15]	18
Relocate the matter relating to High pedestrian activity area sign (rule 24–1B) in alphabetical order.	19 20

Schedule 2	Amendment of Road Transport Act 2013 No 18	1
Section 281		2
Insert after section 280—		3
281	Review of speed limit signage framework	4
(1)	The Minister must review the operation of the legislation governing speed limits, including the installation, maintenance and removal of speed limit signs to determine whether—	5 6 7
(a)	the policy objectives of the legislation remain valid, and	8
(b)	the terms of the legislation remain appropriate for achieving the objectives of the legislation.	9 10
(2)	The review must—	11
(a)	include public consultation about the matters mentioned in subsection (1)(a) and (b), and	12 13
(b)	be undertaken as soon as possible after the period of 12 months after the commencement of the <i>Road Legislation Amendment (Speed Limits) Act 2025</i> , Schedule 2.	14 15 16
(3)	A report on the outcome of the review must be tabled in each House of Parliament as soon as practicable after the end of the period of 12 months.	17 18