



MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW ON TRACK FOR DRIVERLESS VEHICLES

New South Wales is well prepared for the roll out of automated vehicle technology, Albury MP Greg Aplin, Chair of the Parliament's Staysafe Committee, announced today.

"We believe that the best way to maximise the road safety benefits of driverless cars and minimise the risks is via a national regulatory framework," Mr Aplin said. "The NSW Government is working with the National Transport Commission and the other states and territories to put such a framework in place."

The Committee has tabled its report titled 'Driverless vehicles and road safety in NSW' which found that a national framework is the best way to ensure driverless cars are safe, manufacturers can invest with certainty, and drivers can move between states without having to meet different standards.

"All the evidence points to the fact that driverless cars will make our roads safer," Mr Aplin said, "as well as promising a range of benefits for industry, mobility, and more efficient road use."

Driverless cars have already been tested in Australia and overseas, including on-road tests in South Australia in November 2015.

"The Committee found that New South Wales is at the forefront of testing and development," Mr Aplin said. "Within the transport portfolio we have the Smart Innovation Centre to promote research, while the world's largest test of heavy vehicles and connected roadside infrastructure is taking place in the Illawarra."

The Committee identified the costs of providing and maintaining infrastructure, especially in regional and rural areas, as an area which needs more research.

"Driverless technology installed in vehicles currently on the market is already achieving safety benefits," Mr Aplin said. "And future benefits from connectivity where vehicles 'talk to each other' through connected infrastructure is an area of research we must focus on."

The Committee acknowledged the concerns of pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists that driverless cars may present them with special risks.

"We know that human factors such as errors and risk-taking, cause up to 90 per cent of crashes," Mr Aplin said. "We closely considered calls to delay transition to driverless cars while the technology continues to develop, but that would mean delaying the road safety benefits we can achieve now by engaging with the technology."

The Committee's report is available at: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/staysafe.

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