



MEDIA RELEASE

SAFER SCHOOL ZONES

27 March 2012

The Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety (Staysafe) has completed an Inquiry into the effectiveness of school zones in reducing pedestrian casualties and has tabled its Report and recommendations today.

"The Committee was told there is much confusion surrounding current operating hours and road rules governing school zones", said the Chair of the Staysafe Committee, Mr Greg Aplin MP, Member for Albury. "The Report recommends the installation of flashing lights at all schools in NSW, to assist motorists in knowing when the 40km/hr limit applies."

"This will overcome current variations in operating times based on whether schools are part of the private or public system and differences in term times."

"In order to overcome confusion about the rules applying in and around school precincts, the Committee has also recommended that improved safety awareness campaigns and initiatives be undertaken by Roads and Maritime Services and the Department of Education aimed at students, teachers, parents and carers."

"Additionally, motorists should be educated more thoroughly on school zones as part of driver education licensing requirements," Mr Aplin said.

In its Inquiry, the Committee found that school zones have been highly successful in reducing pedestrian casualties since their introduction in 1992, with a 45% decrease in pedestrian casualties across the 10,000 operational school zones in NSW.

"Contrary to recent uninformed media reports," noted Mr Aplin, "the Committee has not recommended extending existing school zone hours."

A copy of the report can be accessed on the Committee's website at:
<http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/staysafe>.

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