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MEDIA RELEASE

Staying safe on local roads

Lives can be saved and trauma reduced on our local roads by having all levels of government work more closely together.

The Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety tabled its report on reducing trauma on local roads in NSW today. The Hon. Lou Amato MLC, Committee Chair, acknowledged that there has been a lot of hard work done to reduce accidents and fatalities on local roads but more needs to be done.

"Local roads are a key part of daily life as people move around their community, and making them safe for all road users is a shared responsibility," Mr Amato said.

The Committee found that local councils are a vital part of efforts to improve local road safety. The report makes 22 recommendations that focus on ensuring local councils are adequately resourced, by state and federal governments, to improve the road infrastructure and promote road safety within their areas.

"Almost every journey starts or ends on a local road as they make up about 80 per cent of the road network. They include high speed rural roads to the local streets where we live, shop and take our kids to school."

"Local councils understand the road safety concerns within their area. We need to ensure they receive the funding and have the expertise they need to make their roads safer for everyone that uses them.

"Better engagement with local communities, who are a valuable source of information, is also important, especially when it comes to issues of road safety and infrastructure around schools".

The Committee also makes recommendations to improve the safety of vulnerable road users such as pedestrians, cyclists and motor cyclists, and that the process for lowering speed limits be simplified.

Other issues highlighted include the need for strategies to improve driver behaviour through the use of speed zones, and driver education programs. The provision of suitable rest areas for heavy vehicles using local roads is also examined.

"The trauma caused by a road accident can have a long lasting impact on those who are injured or have lost loved ones. We hope this report's recommendations will help ensure people are able to use local roads with greater safety."

The report is available on the Committee's [webpage](#).

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