



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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# **DRIVERLESS CARS: TOWARDS A CRASH-FREE FUTURE?**

The NSW Staysafe Committee has launched an inquiry into **driverless vehicles** and the potential impact on road safety in NSW.

“While long considered science fiction, self-driving cars are being developed and tested right now, and predicted to be on roads *in the next couple of years*,” said Mr Greg Aplin MP, Member for Albury and Chair of the Staysafe Committee.

Mr Aplin noted that the potential improved road safety benefits associated with the introduction of driverless vehicle technology seem to be nothing less than ground-breaking and need to be examined in detail. For instance, according to Gerard Waldron, the managing director of the Australian Road Research Board Group, Australia’s \$27 billion annual “road safety bill” could be reduced by up to 90 percent with the advent of driverless cars.<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, Professor Hussein Dia from Swinburne University of Technology stressed that driverless car technology has the potential to reduce accidents by 90 percent.<sup>2</sup>

“The potential road safety benefits are immense and the Staysafe Committee’s inquiry will have a strong focus on establishing the basis for a regulatory framework which will facilitate and foster driverless vehicles technology to deliver improved road safety benefits to the NSW community,” said Mr Aplin.

The Committee will also examine how prepared NSW road safety regulators are to meet the challenges brought by these technologies and what amendments to NSW road safety policies and regulations may be required. “We are determined to ensure that NSW is prepared to seize all opportunities and mitigate potential risks these technological advances may bring,” concluded Mr Aplin.

The Committee welcomes submissions from all relevant stakeholders and interested parties. Submissions can be emailed to [staysafe@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:staysafe@parliament.nsw.gov.au), lodged via the website, [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/staysafe](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/staysafe), or mailed to: The Chair, Joint Committee on Road Safety, Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000.

The closing date for submissions is Monday, 11 April 2016.

**Further information about the inquiry can be obtained on the Committee’s website at:** <http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/staysafe>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.caradvice.com.au/393929/driverless-cars-could-reduce-australias-27-billion-road-safety-bill-by-90-percent/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://reneweconomy.com.au/2015/driverless-cars-could-be-reality-in-australia-within-a-decade-22637>