



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **DISTRACTED ROAD USERS**

**27 March 2013**

Existing mobile phone restrictions should be extended from P1 to P2 drivers, according to a Staysafe report released today.

The Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety (Staysafe) has completed an Inquiry into the dangers of driver and road user distraction and has tabled its Report and recommendations today.

“The Committee recognises the increasing risks posed by the uptake of electronic devices by drivers and the impact this causes for passengers, cyclists and all who travel on NSW roads”, said the Chair of the Staysafe Committee, Mr Greg Aplin MP, Member for Albury.

“Smart phones and new in-vehicle technologies also offer opportunities for improved safety,” said Mr Aplin. “But what is the role for government in steering innovation and regulation?”

“Young people grow up, perform work, study and socialise in a soup of immersive communication and entertainment technologies. Existing research is inadequate to know how this impacts on their driving skills and distraction, making it difficult for regulators to set definitive standards.”

“In the meantime, however, government should not assume that old forms of driver regulation are suitable for the current paradigm. There is a special case for additional protection for new and young drivers while their skills are developing,” said Mr Aplin.

Staysafe has made 21 recommendations including:

- Increasing penalties applying to second and repeated offences for the use of hand-held mobile phones by vehicle drivers;
- Creating a separate offence category for the use of mobile devices for sending or receiving non-voice based communication while driving (e.g. email, texting);
- Strengthening the compliance regime for the use of digital signage on private property which is aimed at road traffic; and
- Investigating the legislative means for authorising police to collect mobile phone data at a traffic accident scene.

Find the Report at: <http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/staysafe>.

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