



## MEDIA RELEASE

### NEED FOR SPEED: THE STAYSAFE REPORT

---

**4 November 2014**

The Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety (Staysafe) investigation into road speed zoning has found that while NSW drivers are doing a good job in many respects, they suffer from an entrenched culture which does not respect speed signs.

“We all think we can drive a little over the speed limit and that this is OK,” notes Greg Aplin, Chair of Staysafe. “But we’re missing the point when we focus just on the numbers. Research indicates that minor speeding represents an overall greater danger to the community than excessive speeding.

“Each driver must ask: what is the appropriate speed for the circumstances? In other words,” says Mr Aplin, “the battle over road speed, in terms of saving lives and serious injury, has its next frontline in the mind.

“The Committee found that elements of current road signage potentially reinforce the wrong attitude to speed, such as using a plethora of different speed zones over a short distance.<sup>1</sup>

“The Committee also found that drivers respond to immediate feedback: double demerit points over holiday periods have worked well when used in tandem with a police presence. The visible cue is important,” said Mr Aplin, “so the Committee recommends greater use of electronic variable message boards to let drivers know why they should adjust their speed, be it due to weather, hidden hazard, road condition or otherwise.<sup>2</sup>

“Immediate feedback and improved driver education can help us change our ways on speed and bring greater credibility to road speed advisory signage.”

The Report, released today, makes 26 recommendations directed at improving road safety through a better understanding of speeding. These include greater use of point-to-point cameras and ways to improve data collection on the role of speed in road accidents.

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

MEDIA:

Greg Aplin, Chair, (02) 6021 3042

---

<sup>1</sup> Recommendation 9

<sup>2</sup> Recommendation 15