

Submission

No 7

DRIVER AND ROAD USER DISTRACTION

Name: Mr Richard Manuell

Date Received: 27/03/2012

SUBMISSION TO THE NSW STAYSAFE COMMITTEE
IN RESPONSE TO THE AD IN THE SMH ON MARCH 20

Dear Mr Aplin,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to this committee.

My concern is about smoking in moving vehicles.

I consider the selection of a cigarette from its packet and lighting it is little different to the issue of handheld phones. It is equally a distraction for the driver, which, even though brief, may be long enough for an accident to occur. Other factors which can influence the situation include the driver getting smoke in their eyes, dropping a burning cigarette into their lap, feeling drowsy, or unduly relaxed from the effects of the CO emitted from the burning cigarette.

Probably outside the committee's brief, other issues such as discarding smouldering butts on to the roadway, or empty cigarette packets add to the need to try and change people's habits.

I consider that smoking while driving should be banned. Drivers who wish to smoke should stop their vehicle and take a break for a smoke. (Trucking companies should allow for this in contracts)

Yours faithfully,
Richard Manuell

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