

**Submission
No 11**

INQUIRY INTO SPEED ZONING AND ITS IMPACT ON THE DEMERIT POINTS SCHEME

Name: Mrs Lesley Carroll
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Wednesday 22 January 2014

The Chair
Joint Cttee on Road Safety
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir,

Re: Submission - Speed Zoning + Demerit Points System

As a regular user of NSW roads, and in particular Wollongong to Coffs Harbour stretches, I welcome this opportunity to express my thoughts.

Speed Zoning - I agree that "speeding is a major factor contributing to injuries and fatalities on our roads" (Greg Donnelly, Country Labour MLC for Coffs Harbour)

My basic view though, is that anyone who is a speeding driver will speed, regardless of the speed signs by which he passes. Considerate and responsible drivers will obey the speed signs. The need therefore is for speed restrictions to be relevant and realistic to the local conditions. Currently, there are long stretches of the Pacific Highway with an unrealistic 90 k/h limit in good conditions, where one would think 100 k/h or 110 k/h ~~would~~ be more suitable.

I feel very sorry for Learner and 'P' Plate drivers

who are forced to a limit much less than that allowed to other drivers. In this regard, I believe these drivers should be allowed the responsibility of driving at the same speed as all other drivers. They, more than others, are at greater risk of losing their license if caught speeding so are more likely to heed the rules. Those 'L' & 'P' platers who speed will always speed; so the sooner they are unlicensed the better.

On some roads, being unable to pass a learner or 'P' plater for significant lengths of time, can lead to frustration by other drivers. Sadly, this is a situation which could lead to speeding, illegal overtaking and worse, traffic accidents.

While assessing NSW Speed Zoning, please, also consider making it lawful for new drivers to travel at the same pace as other drivers.

The Pacific Highway around Urunga has severely decreased speed zones. I believe this was a knee-jerk reaction to the tragic accident which occurred there in about January 2012, when a young boy lost his life. I understand that built up areas need lower speeds, but beyond the urban limits, speeds need to be more realistic. In the Urunga accident I believe the driver was drunk, as well as speeding. Drivers influenced by drugs or alcohol are less likely to heed the road conditions, let alone the speed signs. They will nearly always speed.

In summary regarding speeding:-

- make the speed limits realistic to the local area
- make the speed limits relevant to the road conditions.
- cancel the road rule which restricts learner drivers and p-plate drivers - allow them to travel at the speed advised by road signs
- Find a way to ensure slow drivers pick up to the general flow of traffic. Perhaps fines for driving 20 k/h or more under the speed limit

Demerit Points System - I agree there should be a system in place which automatically punishes speeding drivers and drivers practising any unsafe driving ~~the~~ method eg. using mobile phones, driving with children or pets on their lap, drunk at the wheel ~~etc~~ AND drivers who drive 20 k/h or more under the speed limit. This is another practise I can see building frustration and road rage in other drivers.

Unless a more effective method can be found, I think the demerit point system is a good deterrent for the majority of drivers.

Thank you for the opportunity to express these views.

Sincerely

Mrs Lesley CARROLL
LH Carroll.