

**Submission
No 18**

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

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Date Received: 21/02/2014

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28 January 2014

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To whom it may concern

It is with intense annoyance I once again read in the papers more 'rules & regulations' to be called upon.

Has it not sunk through your skull that demerit points, nor huge fines have stopped accidents? The only benefit is a financial one to you.

Psychology will tell you people generally have 'it won't happen to me' type attitude and consequently have not much regard for the constantly changing rules. People respond more favourably to a reward type system. In Victoria a discount to their registration was given to some of my friends & family for 'good driving record' during 2012/2013 period whereby they received no fines or demerit points. Amusingly their driving habits have changed as they are trying to ensure they receive a discount this year!

NSW also offers discounted licence renewal to those who do not have a record incurred during the previous 5 years – however this is neither documented nor advertised to the public. If the public is unaware of this, how are they to know? Or is the reason for non-publicity a way to ensure not many will be able to benefit & thus ensuring greater revenue for you?

As a previous infant teacher & lecturer, the provision of reward system and encouraging what you wanted rather than focusing on what you didn't always resulted in far better choices and effects.

There are a number of issues to be noted about signage and constantly changing speed signs.

- Drivers spend so much time looking for signs as to the appropriate speeds & then their speedometer that their eyes are taken off what is happening in front of them.
- Large amount of signage for road works or other ventures are also ensuring drivers aren't paying attention to other motorists, but are trying to read 'what is going on' or 'what other rule we need to be obeying now'

In other states P platers are allowed to drive the speed limits: Whereas in NSW they are restricted. Road rage is a huge issue which is agitated by slower P plate and other slow drivers (probably driving slower to avoid speeding fines as they are unsure as to what speed they're supposed to be doing). The effect it has is motorists will overtake where they can and often it is somewhere not safe. Resulting in some accidents – and from my experience I am stunned there haven't been more.

Our society has become a 'rat race' whereby huge expectations and distances to be travelled for work, community, children's sports & extra- curricular (both within & external to school) and other societal commitments. Slower speeds and greater demerit points isn't going to fix the problems. You need to be realistic, consistent and fair.

Sadly many elderly citizens pushing for slower speeds forget what it is like for working parents to fit in a hectic schedule. Leaving work or taking children out of school 15-30 minutes earlier to meet deadlines due to slower speeds and thus increased timeframe to travel is NOT a viable or realistic option.

Highways are renowned for being 100 – 110 km – yet they now range from 70 – 110. It's not the slowing down but keeping consistent that is the key.

Suggestions:

- **110 km per hour for freeways**
- **60 km through main roads through towns**
- **50 km through back streets in heavily built up areas.**
- **Reward system in both insurance & registration for having neither fines nor accidents during the previous year (that the community are made aware of).**

Traffic conditions need to be kept safe. Many roads have treacherous pot holes and other dangerous problems which need to be rectified to ensure safe travel. You need to ensure traffic flows & keeps moving – not at a snail pace either that is going to cause more carbon gas emissions in the long term. Consider the amount of fumes forced into local's lungs due to slower driving conditions and consequently the ramifications to their health?

While I am grateful for the opportunity to give input – please note, as stated above – generally those using the roads, and those needing to give input, are so busy with their day to day lives they don't have time to respond. Often the offer of input is a farce – so why bother attitude is adopted. And while I have finally had enough & wanted to be heard – my family & work has suffered so I could have my say!

Regards

Kim Zwulik