

**Submission  
No. 51a**

## **DRIVER EDUCATION, TRAINING AND ROAD SAFETY**

**Name:** Mr Matt Gijselman  
**Organisation:** National Roads and Motorists Association  
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26 June 2017

Mr G.J. Aplin M.P.  
Member for Albury

By email to: [albury@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:albury@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Mr Aplin

I am writing to seek your support for the introduction of a Road Speed Awareness Course as an option for first-time low-range offenders.

The NRMA has advocated for a road speed awareness course since 2010 and it was part of our 2012 Three Point Plan to Tackle Bad Drivers. It is the only proposal from that campaign that has not subsequently been adopted.

We have returned to this proposal in light of the consecutive increases in the annual NSW road toll after several years of falling fatalities. We believe that addressing what is typically careless or inattentive behaviour by otherwise law-abiding citizens is a vital step in improving driving standards across the community and returning the road toll to a downward trend. We also believe that education will be an attractive and rewarding option for motorists who do not exhibit dangerous or malicious behaviours. Serious offenders should continue to be punished as a deterrent.

The current penalty for 'exceed speed by less than 10km/h' is \$114 (Class A vehicle) / \$341 (Class B or C) and 1 demerit point. Our proposal is that **fully-licensed drivers with no demerit points accrued** should be offered the opportunity to undertake a strictly-designed Road Speed Awareness Course in place of the current penalty regime. We believe this course could be a more effective mechanism to educate motorists on speed awareness and driver safety and ensure poor driving behaviour is stopped and addressed before it escalates.

Office of State Revenue data reveals that the vast majority of the 307,337 NSW motorists issued penalty notices in this range so far this financial year were driving Class A vehicles (97.7 per cent).

According to United Kingdom Government statistics, 1,207,570 drivers opted to complete the National Speed Awareness Course offered to UK motorists in 2015 as an alternative to receiving fixed penalty points and a fine.

More than 2000 attendees throughout the UK course participated in a 2011 study where 99 per cent of respondents reported that they had changed their driving styles for the better after completing the course, with 90 per cent reporting no difficulties in applying what they learnt.

This demonstrates to us that a Road Speed Awareness Course would be a valuable road safety and education innovation with real positive outcomes for NSW motorists. Together, we can restart our shared journey to a lower road toll and safer driving environment for all citizens.

For more information or to discuss this issue further, please contact NRMA Senior Manager, Policy & Research, Carlita Warren [REDACTED] or Corporate Communications & Campaigns Manager, Wade O'Leary [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]  
**Matt Gijselman**  
General Manager – Public Affairs