

REVIEW OF ROAD SAFETY ISSUES FOR FUTURE INQUIRY

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I have three comments for the committee to consider in reference to the use of roads in NSW, and the drivers thereon.

1: Turn right anytime with care: Driving on Sydney roads can be problematic at the best of time, during peak hour-chaotic. I consider part of this is caused by the inability of the traffic to flow smoothly and with minimal delay. The principal cause of this I see as traffic lights being used to control flow and I believe there is a simple solution that would relieve traffic flows- turn left anytime with care. I cannot understand why, when using traffic lights the traffic turning left needs to sit at traffic lights when the path is clear, for a vehicle or vehicles to turn safely and continue their journey. This is patently more ridiculous when, at early mornings or late evenings a car is delayed at lights even though there is no traffic in the lanes / street being turned into.

2: Keep left unless overtaking: I find it particularly galling, when driving along freeways and multilane roads with speed limits 80+kph there are still drivers who consider the right overtaking lane is for their sole use. This causes frustration and impatience, particularly when (as recently happened to me) they sat there at 80kph when the speed limit was 110kph and did not move despite light flashing etc. I have also seen police come behind these cars, which pull into the right lane and then immediately go into the left lane after the police passing. Highway patrol need to be proactive in fining these individuals rather than concentrating solely on speed violations.

3: Roundabout procedures: Roundabouts are a nightmare and education needs to be undertaken to ensure the rules are abided by. Again, police need to be proactive in assessing roundabout procedures as there are few who give way to the traffic in the roundabout and consider it a racetrack trying to get to the roundabout before other oncoming traffic.

Thank you