

**Submission  
No 13**

## **SUPPORT FOR RURAL AND REGIONAL LEARNER DRIVERS**

**Organisation:** City of Newcastle

**Date Received:** 11 May 2021

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The Hon. Lou Amato, MLC  
Chair – Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
**SYDNEY NSW 2000**

Dear Mr Amato

### **STAYSAFE INQUIRY - SUPPORT FOR RURAL AND REGIONAL LEARNER DRIVERS**

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission. City of Newcastle does not face many of the issues which are at the core of this inquiry but would like to make some suggestions about driver training and education which are relevant across all communities.

In line with NSW Government and Australian Government initiatives, City of Newcastle is striving to increase mode share to active and sustainable transport and decrease reliance on private cars. A key barrier to increased participation in walking and riding is fear – people are simply afraid of being hit by a car. There are many ways in which safety may be improved so that people are more comfortable choosing to walk or ride, one being improved driver education so that motorists are more cognisant of the road rules, adhere to them, and generally display more consideration and awareness of all road users.

City of Newcastle has recently adopted a new cycling plan. The consultation and public exhibition process highlighted many concerns about drivers' behaviour around cyclists and walkers. General observations indicate a lack of knowledge (or resistance to enact) road rules regarding giving adequate space to riders on the road and giving way to pedestrians (refer to <https://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/downloads/top-10-misunderstood-road-rules.pdf>).

Your support in encouraging mutual consideration, safe and respectful behaviour by road users, to increase participation in active transport and reduce road trauma through efforts to improve driver training programs, would be most appreciated.

Should you require any further information on this matter please contact me.

Yours faithfully

Simon Grierson  
**MANAGER TRANSPORT AND COMPLIANCE**