

**Submission
No 8**

SPEED LIMITS AND ROAD SAFETY IN REGIONAL NSW

Name: Mr John Readford

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I am an interstate truck driver, being so for 12 years, a Caravanner, a biker rider living in NSW and driving in excess of 250,000 kilometres per year I credit my self in having lost no points in the last 18 years, however I have worked hard to achieve this, and I have had a bit of luck on my side.

Generally speed limits across NSW are very good, and most drivers adhere to them. NSW Police also do a good job by and large, but there is a lunatic driver every now and again that continues to speed at unsafe levels.

I have some concerns re speed limits. Most are very reasonable, however high pedestrian activity and tight vehicle operational areas (parking, crossings, etc) such as CBD's speed limits could be reduced to say 40KM/hr .. Some arterial town limits could be safely increased to 60KM/hr with no loss of safety, to improve vehicle productivity

Speed limits should be assessed from to time, as to their appropriate speed.

Two major concerns:

1. Speed limit signs are often lost in the wilderness of other backgrounds. They need to be bigger and brighter, away from clutter. Those newer larger and vivid pink signs should prevail. There also needs to be warning signs of impending downwards speed limit change eg 50KM/hr AHEAD, 80KM/hr AHEAD. There would be then little excuse for any driver exceeding the speed limit.

2. Roadworks speed limits, are very ambiguous at times, often not reflecting conditions or work activity at the time. The standards covering roadworks needs to be improved and perhaps more variable electronic signs and speed signs could be used as conditions and work change.

Having stated the above, more deterrents should be put in place to make those few lunatics adhere to the rules, such as discreet fixed and mobile speed cameras, with no warnings, provided they allow for reasonable margin, say around 5% to 10% over the limit. The widespread use of these discreet speed cameras would really drive down the number of speeding motorists.

Better driver education is called for too, but this is really another story.in how it can be done well.

In determining any speed limit, safety must be the number one and larger priority, however being a truck driver, reasonable productivity should also be considered. In other words, unnecessary limits cost time and money.

Also all vehicles towing a caravan or trailer should be limited in NSW and Australia to 100KM/hr