

**Submission  
No 59**

## **SPEED LIMITS AND ROAD SAFETY IN REGIONAL NSW**

**Name:** Mr Paul Maytom

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As a passionate road safety advocate I would like to contribute my thoughts on road safety in regional NSW.

I certainly support the effective use of speed limits as a vital road safety tool. Unfortunately TfNSW is often taking a one size fits all approach resulting in many restricted speed zones that serve no purpose in reducing accidents. While I support 50 kph zones in built up areas - we are now seeing these zones extended way beyond the residential area with no safety benefits. The 50 kph zones were implemented to reduce the risks in the town areas. Also the 50 zone extensions frustrates motorists and can lead to complacency and entrapment of motorists.

We want motorists to observe the speed limits - however it now being viewed as leaning towards revenue raising.

While understanding it is difficult to get all speed limits right, we should feel confident that when speed limits are reduced we should understand the safety reasoning behind it.

The term "speeding" is suggesting any driver who drives over the posted speed limit is risk taking - this may be so on many occasions, however if the speed zones reflected the real risks, motorists would be more compliant.

I would also suggest that there should be some latitude given when overtaking on sealed roads. An example is if you are travelling at 100 kph and there is a truck in front of you, I would suggest it is safer for all motorists on the road to overtake as quickly as possible - especially if you have a line up of vehicles behind you. It is frightening as a passenger to be sitting on the wrong side of the road driving at no more than 100kph when a short burst of speed has you around the vehicle and back in your lane - which reduces the build up of traffic creating higher risks. I along with other motorists feel extremely unsafe when caught in a line of traffic, especially with other trucks behind.

An example I'll use : We know that trucks have a "blind spot" so it is wise to not be sitting beside a truck for too long. I have had a truck pull out on me as I was overtaking and could have resulted in a collision if I didn't increase my speed. Another time I was overtaking a truck when I spotted a camera car - I then slowed

down and aborted the overtaking manoeuvre - quite a frightening experience.

There are no overtaking lanes on the Sturt Highway for 90 kms between Narrandera and Wagga.

I also believe that TfNSW should get more accurate information related to vehicle crashes and if speed was the "real" contributing factor that led to the crash.

It is disturbing to see the Camera car set up at locations where there is no accident

stats and no risks . Also the Highway Patrol often sits well on the outskirts of towns trapping motorists that mostly observe the restricted zones in the town area and are now being penalised because they are breaking an unrealistic speed limit

I applaud TfNSW on installing more rumble strips that will reduce many "run off road accidents.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute my thoughts on road safety.