

From: Committees
To: Morrison, Margie
Subject: FW: Submission to Vulnerable Road Users Inquiry
Date: Friday, 26 July 2013 10:15:39 AM

[REDACTED]
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Sent: Tuesday, 23 July 2013 12:44 PM
To: Committees
Subject: Submission to Vulnerable Road Users Inquiry

Dear Secretariat

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on improving safety for vulnerable road users. I would like to briefly make a comment.

While many road users can be considered vulnerable, the most vulnerable must be children, as they lack both the awareness of dangers and the experience to respond to threats that other road users may have. For that reason I am a strong supporter of the 40km/h speed limit for schools, as that is an area with the greatest concentration of children.

My concern is that these are not being adequately enforced by police. A regular, visible police presence is in my view the best way to ensure that motorists comply with the speed limit. Whilst by no means an authoritative count, I drop my children to school every day and have only observed the police enforcing the school speed limit at my children's school once this year, I might add they were regularly stopping cars whilst they were there, so it seemed to me that cars were regularly exceeding the 40km/h speed limit, so compliance with the speed limit is a problem.

I note that the government has introduced a similar 40km/h speed limit in the town centres. While I commend moves to improve pedestrian safety, my concern is that these limits doesn't appear to be enforced particularly rigorously (and certainly within Civic where I most frequently visit).

Without rigorous enforcement of these new 40km/h zones, I'm concerned that drivers will become accustomed to speeding through 40km/h zones – which will have a consequential impact on drivers complying with limits in school zones. Certainly there seems to be few motorists complying with the 40km/h limit in Civic at the moment.

Canberra motorists tend to drive a up to 10km/h over the speed limit as a matter of course, and if they regularly drive through a 40km/h zones as they pass through town centres, and observe no sanction for exceeding the speed limit, they are more likely to also speed through school zones. Canberra drivers must be reminded that 40km/h means 40km/h, not 45 or 50km/h (or even more). Therefore regular, high profile police presence in these zones is crucial.

I'd include increased mobile speed camera vans as well, as the way they operate in the ACT make them a visible road safety presence. I'd even support fixed speed cameras, similar to those that operate outside many schools in NSW.

Our children's safety must surely take priority over those who cry 'revenue raising' every time speed cameras are mentioned.

Thanks again for the opportunity to comment.

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