



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QON No. 83

STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

JEREMY HANSON CSC MLA (CHAIR), MARISA PATERSON MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), JO CLAY MLA

Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by Peter Cain MLA:

In relation to: Smiley Face Signs

1. In June 2020 a further \$20,000 was committed from the ACT Road Safety Fund to add two 'Smiley Face road signs' on top of the \$40,000 previously spent on an initial trial. Within the Annual Report, it states an evaluation found that the "visual reminder" provided by the signs reduced speeds by "up to 12.2km".
 - a. What are the details of the evaluation referenced that determined speed reductions of up to 12.2km were achieved?
 - b. What evidence exists to suggest that it was merely a correlation that a driver was going 12.2km below the speed limit and not a causal impact of the signs themselves?
 - c. How many drivers were recorded going above the speed limit when the signs were in place?
 - d. What was the average reduction in speed due to the signs?

Minister Steel MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

- a. The Smiley Face sign trial began in February 2018 and concluded in October 2019. During this period, the signs were rotated through 17 trial sites five times, remaining at each site for a minimum of 10 weeks. Speed data was collected from all selected streets prior to the start of trial. Speed data was then collected and assessed fortnightly from all signs to understand and determine if motorists continued to observe the signs messaging over the entire period of time, and if there was an optimum duration for the sign to have a positive effect on motorists and show a change in driver behaviour. An evaluation of the effectiveness of the signs was completed in February 2020 by comparing motorist travelling speeds before the trial to their speeds while the signs were installed.
- b. The evaluation analysed the collected speed data and presented the average findings over the trial period. It found that the presence of the signs reduced motorists travelling speeds by up to 12.2 km/h, not that "a driver was going 12.2km/h below the speed limit".
- c. A total of 3,968,856 vehicles were recorded during the trial period. The evaluation report did not present the number of motorists travelling above the speed limit when the signs were in place. The percentage of motorists travelling at or below the speed limit is presented below.



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** indicates locations where a full dataset was not achievable due to sign malfunction.*

Sign location & direction	Motorists travelling at or below speed limit					
	Before sign Installation	With sign installed				
		Weeks 1 & 2	Weeks 3 & 4	Weeks 5 & 6	Weeks 7 & 8	Weeks 9 & 10
Abena Av* (facing Gundaroo Dr)	67%	83%	83%	84%	-	-
Ainsworth St (facing Power St)	66%	74%	77%	85%	80%	81%
Ainsworth St (facing Butters Dr)	47%	90%	89%	88%	92%	92%
Amy Ackman St (facing Beveridge Cr Sth)	43%	67%	70%	75%	73%	74%
Jim Pike Av (facing Charlton Cr)	20%	62%	62%	64%	63%	62%
Kerrigan St (facing Bedourie Dr)	46%	79%	78%	74%	76%	77%
MacFarland Cr (facing Collings St)	34%	88%	83%	89%	88%	88%
McInnes St (facing Chevalier St east)	29%	51%	54%	56%	58%	64%
Newman-Morris Cct (facing Singleton Cr nth)	39%	56%	57%	56%	57%	57%
Springvale Dr (facing Coulter Dr)	60%	60%	62%	71%	72%	72%
Stonehaven Cr (facing Carmichael St)	15%	57%	58%	60%	59%	61%
William Webb Dr (facing Ginninderra Dr)	65%	71%	74%	76%	70%	77%
Signs installed within school zones						
During school zone operation hours (School days, 8 am – 4 pm)						
Casey Cr* (facing Were St)	17%	71%	73%	71%	73%	74%
Mugga Wy* (facing Flinders Wy)	58%	68%	65%	64%	-	-
Beasley St (facing Parkin St)	26%	50%	48%	50%	52%	55%
Boddington Cr (facing Carleton St)	70%	78%	77%	79%	61%	61%
Burrinjuck Cr* (facing Blowering St west)	67%	67%	66%	69%	-	-
Oodgeroo Av (facing Nullarbor Av)	50%	84%	83%	83%	-	-
Outside of school zone operation hours						
Casey Cr* (facing Were St)	26%	64%	65%	69%	67%	67%



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Mugga Wy* (facing Flinders Wy)	87%	89%	89%	88%	86%	-
Beasley St (facing Parkin St)	74%	84%	85%	85%	84%	85%
Boddington Cr (facing Carleton St)	88%	93%	94%	94%	96%	97%
Burrinjuck Cr* (facing Blowering St west)	77%	91%	91%	91%	-	-
Oodgeroo Av (facing Nullarbor Av)	40%	72%	76%	80%	-	-

- d. Travelling speeds varies for different streets. Changes in speed due to the presence of the signs is presented below:

Travelling speeds before and with Sign installation

Sign location & direction	Speed limit (km/h)	Travelling speeds (km/h)				Change in speed (km/h)	
		Before sign Installation		With sign installed			
		Average speed	85 th %ile speed	Average speed	85 th %ile speed	Average speed	85 th %ile speed
Abena Av (facing Gundaroo Dr)	50	47.6	53.3	43.4	50.8	-4.2	-2.5
Ainsworth St (facing Power St)	60	60.7	67.3	51.5	59.0	-9.2	-8.3
Ainsworth St (facing Butters Dr)	60	57.6	63.7	55.1	61.9	-2.5	-1.8
Amy Ackman St (facing Beveridge Cr sth)	50	51.2	58.7	46.8	53.7	-4.4	-5
Jim Pike Av (facing Charlton Cr)	60	65.7	72.4	59.2	66.2	-6.5	-6.2
Kerrigan St (facing Bedourie Dr)	60	60.9	67.0	54.5	62.3	-6.4	-4.7
MacFarland Cr (facing Collings St)	60	56.9	64.1	49.8	59.7	-7.1	-4.4
McInnes St (facing Chevalier St east)	50	54.0	61.9	49.0	55.9	-5	-6
Newman-Morris Cct (facing Singleton Cr nth)	50	52.1	61.2	49.1	59.9	-3	-1.3
Springvale Dr (facing Coulter Dr)	60	61.7	64.1	57.1	63.6	-4.6	-0.5
Stonehaven Cr (facing Carmichael St)	50	56.2	62.6	49.3	55.4	-6.9	-7.2
William Webb Dr (facing Ginninderra Dr)	60	58.3	63.7	57.1	63.3	-1.2	-0.4



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Travelling speeds before and with Sign installation within 40km/h School zones

Sign location & direction	Speed limit (km/h)	Travelling speeds (km/h)				Change in speed (km/h)	
		Before sign Installation		With sign installed			
		Average speed	85 th %ile speed	Average speed	85 th %ile speed	Average speed	85 th %ile speed
Casey Cr (facing Were St)	40/50	48.7/52.8	56.3/58.4	38.3/45.2	44.1/53.5	-10.4/-7.6	-12.2/-4.9
Mugga Wy (facing Flinders Wy)	40/60	39.1/52.7	44.8/59.4	39.7/52.1	45.7/59.1	0.6/-0.6	0.9/-0.3
Beasley St (facing Parkin St)	40/60	47.3/55.3	57.8/63.0	42.9/52.9	53.3/60.6	-4.4/-2.4	-4.5/-2.4
Boddington Cr (facing Carleton St)	40/60	37.4/53.1	43.2/60.2	39.1/50.0	44.8/56.2	1.7/-3.1	1.6/-4
Burrinjuck Cr (facing Blowering St west)	40/50	37.8/47.7	44.7/56.2	39.0/50.0	47.2/58.2	1.2/2.3	2.5/2
Oodgeroo Av (facing Nullarbor Av)	40/50	41.1/51.7	48.0/58.2	36.1/45.9	41.5/54.1	-5/-5.8	-6.5/-4.1

The travelling speed within the school zone is shown as x/y where

x = speed during school hours, and

y = speed outside of school hours.

85th %ile speed – the speed at which or below 85% of motorists were travelling at.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Signature:

Date:

9/3/21

By the Minister for Transport and City Services, Chris Steel MLA