

ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS



Patron: H.R.H. The Prince of Wales

9 December 2015

The Honourable Michael Bruce Baird MP
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Baird,

The National Trauma Committee of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) is keen to encourage the **prompt implementation of point-to-point speed enforcement for all vehicle users in New South Wales.**

The requirement for all road users to comply with the legal speed limits within components of the road system monitored by point-to-point speed systems was an essential element of the National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020, unanimously agreed to by all state and territory Transport and Infrastructure ministers.

The safety benefit of this system of enforcement has been well demonstrated in the United Kingdom and in nations of Western Europe.

In every Australian jurisdiction in which point-to-point speed systems exist, except New South Wales, this accepted component in a safe systems approach has been implemented.

Within New South Wales, the selective utilisation of the point-to-point speed system to enforce compliance for commercial truck drivers alone, restricts the Safe System benefit which would be gained from the more general, same standard system applied in Queensland, the Australian Capital Territory, Victoria, South Australia and foreshadowed in Western Australia.

A report recently released by Austroads highlights the significant financial costs NSW bears managing seriously injured road traffic collision survivors. The average in-hospital cost of treating an individual with injuries sustained in a car crash is \$22,380. The ongoing cost can be substantial. A media report from September indicated that 30 people are hospitalised with serious injuries from car crashes every day in NSW, costing taxpayers around \$3.4b annually.

The report also found that speeding was judged to contribute to 49% of crashes, and that the speed limit was judged to be too high in 20% of crashes. RACS is confident, based on the weight of current evidence that the broader implementation of point-to-point speed enforcement will contribute to a reduction in road trauma costs.

The National Road Safety Strategy states that point-to-point speed enforcement has a high level of public support. It has been described as fairer than spot speed enforcement because speeding is detected over a greater distance, demonstrating the behaviour was intentional and not due to a momentary lapse of concentration. We respectfully request the prompt enforcement of legal speed limits using NSW's point-to-point speed systems for all road users.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Langcake, FRACS
Chair, NSW Regional Committee

John A Crozier AM CSM, FRACS
Chair, National Trauma Committee