

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee

SUBMISSION - Aspects of road safety in Australia.

As a private citizen and motorist I draw on 52 years of driving experience in order to submit the following observations.

1. Concentration by regulatory authorities on **speed** as the major cause of road accidents and road trauma is misguided.
2. The most significant contributing factor to road trauma, particularly in urban areas, is **driver distraction** – mobile phones, GPS, passengers etc..
3. The most significant contributing factor to road trauma in regional areas is **driver fatigue**.
4. Lesser contributing factors to road trauma in regional areas are **road conditions and weather**.

Personal experience, together with input from others, convinces me that the faster people drive the more attentive they become.

In regional areas, driving for longer periods than necessary, due to restrictive speed limits, enhances the prospect of driver fatigue.

Driver fatigue is reduced if journey times are shorter and drivers are more attentive if they drive faster.

Drivers restricted by unrealistic speed limits are inclined to become frustrated, bored, distracted and inattentive.

Inbuilt safety features in modern cars means that higher safe speeds are possible and higher safe speeds will result in more attentive drivers.

Yours faithfully
James Bodey