



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Transport and Regional Services

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 21 June 2004

Chair: Paul Neville MP

Report of the Inquiry into National Road Safety tabled

The House of Representatives Transport Committee today tabled its report on national road safety. The report, *National Road Safety—Eyes on the road ahead*, addresses a wide range of road safety issues of national significance including:

- Road safety trends and strategies in Australia;
- Speed management;
- The safety of the road environment;
- Driver management;
- Vehicle safety; and
- Special issues surrounding heavy vehicles, vulnerable road users and youth.

Among the report's key recommendations are:

- Incorporating targets for serious injuries in the *National Road Safety Strategy*;
- Implementing targets, timelines and accountabilities in National Road Safety Action Plans;
- Increased funding for road safety measures, including black spots;
- That road design, safety and maintenance standards reflect the needs of all road users;
- Uniform licensing across the nation;
- A comprehensive review of Australian Design Rules;
- That the Australian Government join ANCAP;
- Measures addressing driver safety in the road transport industry;
- The development and implementation of national road safety strategies for motorcyclists, cyclists and pedestrians; and
- The development and implementation of a national youth road safety strategy.

The Committee Chair, Mr Paul Neville MP, stated that the report highlighted the need for a national approach to road safety.

"We must ensure that all stakeholders, including governments, vehicle manufacturing and motoring groups, and road users generally are aware of their responsibilities for improving road safety," Mr Neville said. "Ongoing investment in the safety of our roads and vehicles, in driver education and in effective law enforcement are all vital to reducing the road toll, a goal which interests every member of the community."

"While there has been a substantial decline in road fatalities in the last two decades, our report notes that this trend has stalled in the last few years. It is with this in view that the Committee has set out to identify potential developments which will maintain the trend towards higher levels of road safety and lower road trauma."

During the course of its inquiry, the Committee received submissions and took evidence from a wide variety of stakeholders, including governments, road safety experts, industry and motoring bodies and concerned citizens. It received forty-three submissions and held two public hearings, one of which was a forum with various experts and industry representatives.

To arrange media comment: please contact the Committee Chair, Mr Paul Neville, on (02) 6277 4940

For further information, including copies of the report, visit the inquiry website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/trs or phone (02) 6277 4940