

MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon Catherine King MP

Parliamentary Secretary for Infrastructure and Transport



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Government Will Not Ban Bull Bars

The Parliamentary Secretary for Infrastructure and Transport, Catherine King, today stated that recent claims in the media and by interest groups that the Government was intending to ban bull bars were totally incorrect.

"Let's be clear about this, the Government will not ban bull bars," Ms King said.

"The Government recognises that bull bars play a positive role in road safety, including in animal strikes."

On 13 January 2011, the Department of Infrastructure and Transport issued a draft Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) proposing the adoption of an internationally agreed standard to improve pedestrian safety by making the front of vehicles more energy absorbing. The proposal would save up to 65 lives and 3,000 serious injuries over fifteen years.

The proposal would be phased in from 2013 to 2019 and apply only to new vehicles. It will not affect vehicles in use today.

Because some bull bars could stiffen the front of vehicles and significantly undercut the gains from applying the pedestrian safety standards, the Department's proposal also includes proposed standards for bull bars:

- For vehicles not designed for off-road use, such as passenger cars, a standard similar to that required in Europe and in the pedestrian safety standard itself; and
- For vehicles designed for off-road use, such as most four wheel drive vehicles, the standard proposed is an Australian standard designed and developed with industry involvement and would allow for metal bull bars to be used.

"Far from banning bull bars, the Department's proposal recognises the safety benefits from bull bars and proposes standards for bull bars, so that they also contribute to our pedestrian safety objective. I'm sure the bull bar industry and vehicle owners share that objective."

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