



AUSTRALIAN LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

MEDIA RELEASE

Local Government welcomes Draft National Road Safety Strategy

Cr Genia McCaffery, President of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), today welcomed the consultation draft of the National Road safety Strategy 2011-20 which aims to reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries on Australian roads by at least 30% annually.

"Road crashes cause the death of some 1500 people and 30,000 serious injuries every year on Australian roads," Cr McCaffery said. "Ultimately no death or serious injury on our roads is acceptable."

Councils are collectively responsible for over 650,000 kilometres or 80% of all roads in Australia and local government welcomes the greater emphasis on local roads in the draft strategy.

"The internationally recognised 'Safe System' approach adopted in the draft Strategy accepts that people using the road network will make mistakes and therefore the whole 'system' needs to be made as safe as possible to ensure it is more forgiving of human errors," Cr McCaffery said.

"This means improving the safety of roads, adding safety features to cars, making sure people obey speed limits and the road rules, and having the appropriate sanctions for road users who demonstrate irresponsible behaviour.

"I urge state local government associations and councils to examine the draft strategy from their own perspectives and provide feedback by asking the questions: How will this work in my community? Is it practical? Are there alternative approaches to achieve the same or better result? How will these initiatives be paid for?"

The draft strategy and details on how to lodge feedback can be found on the Department of Infrastructure and Transport website, www.infrastructure.gov.au/

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