



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ROAD SAFETY

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6 March 2012

Our ref: D12/04962

Mr Greg Moran  
NSW President  
Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia  
Level 12  
447 Kent Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Moran

At its meeting on 22 February 2012, the Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety (Staysafe) resolved to conduct an inquiry into Driver and Road User Distraction. The terms of reference for the inquiry are attached.

Driver and road user distraction is an area that is of great importance to the work of the Staysafe Committee, and has been highlighted as an area for further investigation in recent inquiries. The problem of distractions from hand held electronic devices, in vehicle technology and external visual displays and signs is growing but the precise safety impact of such distractions remains unclear.

The inquiry is being conducted in the context of identified priorities in the National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020, which cites driver distraction as a significant contributor to crash casualties and also growing public awareness of the hazards presented by these distractions.

I would appreciate a submission from your agency addressing the specific terms of reference in order to assist our inquiry. Your input will make a valuable contribution to the Committee's work.

I have attached an explanatory document setting out the format requirements for such a submission.

Submissions are requested by 27 April 2012, anticipating the calling of further evidence at public hearings to be conducted later in the year.

Should you have any other queries relating to the inquiry, please contact me on (02) 6021 3042 or Mr Bjarne Nordin, Inquiry Manager, on (02) 9230 2843.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Greg Aplin'.

Greg Aplin MP  
Chair



## **Inquiry into Driver and Road User Distraction**

### **Terms of Reference**

That the Committee examines the role of distraction in crash casualties as it affects all road users in NSW, with a view to identifying its impact and to propose solutions for mitigating its negative consequences, with particular reference to:

- a) The nature and extent of distraction as a contributor to crash casualties on NSW roads;
- b) Current rates and future trends in take up of electronic devices, both by road users and vehicle manufacturers;
- c) Regulatory means of enforcing harm minimisation caused by such devices;
- d) Technological solutions to managing the harmful consequences of distraction;
- e) Other solutions to reduce information overload for road users; and
- f) Any other related matters.