



10 May 2024

NSW Law Reform Commission
Locked Bag 5000
Parramatta NSW 2124

Via email: nsw-lrc@dcj.nsw.gov.au

Dear Chairperson,

Re: NSW Law Reform Commission on Serious Road Crime

Road crashes are rare, yet when they occur they can have devastating consequences for everyone involved. This includes crash survivors, families, friends, first responders, the community, and also offenders and their families and social connections.

Nobody is left unscathed.

For more 100 years, the NRMA has focused on preventing road crashes. Representing more than 3 million Australians today, independent advocacy was our foundational activity and remains critical today.

High visibility policing

Enforcement and penalties paired with education is an effective combination in changing people's behaviour on our roads. The NRMA's long-held view is that more Police on the state's roads is critical to saving lives and reducing the road toll.

In 2023, an NRMA survey of 3,305 Members across NSW and the ACT found almost two-thirds (65 per cent) believed visible marked police cars were the most effective way to tackle bad driver behaviour; an additional 10 per cent supported unmarked police cars.

There is overwhelming public support for NSW Police, with 90 per cent of respondents saying there should be more visible policing on our roads.

The NRMA has also led the charge in advocating for an increase in Random Breath Tests (RBTs) in NSW to curb drink driving. Visible RBTs on the side of the road is one of the ultimate deterrents to drink driving.

The NRMA's [Bust the Boozers](#) report, released last year, outlined that the Austroads best practice model is for at least 1.1 RBTs to be conducted per licence holder, per year. On this year's figures, this equates to over 7.5 million tests across NSW.

Last year, just 3.5 million RBTs were conducted in NSW, falling by 300,000 on the previous year, which was already low by historical standards. This represents the lowest level of testing since 2008 when figures first became publicly available, excluding the COVID restricted years of 2020 and 2021.

Adequate penalties

The NRMA supports an evidence-based approach in ensuring penalties are adequate for serious road crime, especially for recidivist offenders.



It is important that penalties be based on best practice, provide a strong deterrent, and ensure accountability. We acknowledge that tough penalties may not be the sole deterrent to preventing road trauma, however they play a vital role.

It is important that an adequate penalty system is in place to ensure that offenders are held accountable for their actions.

Yours faithfully,

Robert Giltinan
Director of Policy & Public Affairs