



Australian Government

**Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Local Government**

File Reference:

Rvd
13/1/09
Committee Secretariat
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Petitions
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretariat

Subject: Questions on Notice - Petitions Committee hearing of 3 December 2008

The following material is provided to respond to questions about school zones taken on notice by me at the above hearing.

Road traffic planning, management, regulation and enforcement are areas of state and territory government responsibility. This includes matters relating to traffic management in the vicinity of schools.

While individual jurisdictions determine their own policies and practices, there are a number of recognised Australasian publications that serve as a guide to best practice on key aspects of traffic management. These publications are developed in consultation with state and territory agencies, mainly through the work programs of Austroads (the Australasian association of road transport and traffic authorities) or Standards Australia. Examples of recent publications that include specific guidelines for school zones are:

- Austroads publication AGRS03/08 (Guide to Road Safety – Part 3: Speed Limits and Speed Management);
- Australian Standard AS 1742.4-2008 (Manual of uniform traffic control devices – Part 4: Speed controls).

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government has a lead role in developing high-level strategic directions and national

priorities for road safety. It does not, however, have any specific responsibilities for the development or adoption of traffic management guidelines, standards or policies.

The Department participates in two major road safety committees that include representation from relevant federal, state and territory government departments:

- the Austroads Safety Taskforce: which coordinates the Austroads road safety research and publications program (currently managed by the Executive Director, Safety and Regulation Division, Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure, South Australia); and
- the National Road Safety Executive Group: which develops policy advice on matters of national strategic significance and manages a work program on behalf of the Australian Transport Council (currently chaired by the General Manager, Road Safety, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government).

I trust the information satisfies the Committee's requirements. If you require further detail, I suggest the Committee write to the General Manager, Road Safety of this Department.

Yours sincerely

Neil Williams
General Manager
Rail Branch
13 January 2009