



Our ref: DPC/32610

Mr Elton Humphery
C/o community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr Humphery

Drink driving contributes to over one in every four fatal crashes and the trend appears to be increasing. Most people do not drink and drive on a regular basis, however, research shows that around 48 percent of Western Australian drivers aged 17 to 39 years admit to consuming alcohol prior to driving in varying degrees. Of these, 22 per cent consume one standard drink, 50 per cent consume two standard drinks, while the remaining 28 per cent consume three or more standard drinks prior to driving.

It is evident from crash statistics that alcohol and driving do not mix. Consuming alcohol before driving impairs driving abilities and increases the risk of crashing with research showing that drivers are twice as likely to crash with a blood alcohol content of 0.05 per cent, seven times as likely with a BAC of 0.08 per cent and 25 times more likely to crash with a BAC of 0.015 per cent. Statistics also show that intoxicated drivers who are involved in fatal crashes are three times more likely to have been speeding or not wearing a seatbelt than sober drivers.

The Road Safety Council of Western Australia is cognisant of the impact that advertising can have on the behaviour of young people over time and supports measures designed to control the consumption of alcohol and promote a culture of responsible drinking.

In addition to supporting a restriction on the advertising and marketing of alcohol to young people as suggested by the four initiatives listed in the Bill, I suggest that consideration should be given to an increase in alcohol taxes in an effort to contribute to a reduction in alcohol consumption.

Thank you for providing this opportunity to comment on the Alcohol Toll Reduction Bill 2007.

Yours sincerely



Iain Cameron
Executive Director

20 March 2008