



## MAJOR CHANGES TO MOBILE SPEED CAMERAS AND LICENSING LAWS

Monday 22 November 2010

The NSW Government today announced major reforms to the State's demerit point system and changes to mobile speed cameras.

State Cabinet this afternoon approved the reforms. Legislation will be introduced to NSW Parliament this week.

### **Demerit Point Scheme Changes**

**The State's Demerit Point Scheme will see all unrestricted licence holders receive one additional demerit point, while licence holders who drive for a living will be entitled to two further demerit points before they face losing their licence.**

Twenty-two of the State's demerit point offences will also be either deleted or reduced.

This increase is consistent with the NRMA's call in October 2010 for reform and special consideration for professional drivers.

The NSW Government will:

- Increase the current number of demerit points that can be accumulated by unrestricted licence holders over three years from 12 to 13;
- Increase the number of demerit points that can be accumulated by professional drivers over three years from 12 to 14, on the basis of additional time spent on roads; and
- Immediately reduce demerit points across 22 existing offences.

### **No speeding or safety-related offences have been altered.**

The three year period in which demerit point penalties are kept on a licence will remain.

Premier Kristina Keneally said: "These are the biggest reforms to the Demerit Points Scheme since it was introduced.

"These adjustments are timely and proportional. They take into account the growth of speed and safety cameras, as well as an extensive Highway Patrol presence."

### **Mobile Speed Cameras**

**Warning signs will be positioned at least 50 metres prior to vehicles housing mobile speed cameras.**

**Cars will be clearly signposted and marked in bright colours.**

This is in addition to secondary signs posted after the vehicles, implemented in July this year.

“Make no mistake: speeding is dangerous. Speeding can kill passengers, drivers and pedestrians,” Ms Keneally said.

“Mobile speed cameras are on the road to make people slow down – we’ve said that from the start.

“However, the reality is the majority of drivers do the right thing.

“Motorists deserve a fair go. We’ve heard community concerns about mobile speed cameras loud and clear and we are responding.”

### **Critical Road Policy Questions for Review**

The Government will establish a Working Party comprised of relevant government agencies, representatives of the NRMA, the Law Society, the Pedestrian Council and driver safety experts to examine:

- Whether NSW should move to introduce automatic demerit point penalties for drink driving offences – similar to Victoria;
- Whether sanctions other than demerit points, e.g. completing a driver education course could be used to reduce demerit point penalties;
- Whether demerit points should be imposed when a Section 10 application results in a conviction not being recorded; and
- How motorists whose licences have been suspended can apply for restricted ‘hardship’ licences permitting them to drive for short periods during their licence suspension to alleviate employment or family hardship.

“We support hardship provisions and we want the Working Party to give advice on how that is best implemented,” Roads Minister David Borger said.

“These are important questions for the motoring public and the Government – that’s why we’ve asked a range of interest groups to join with the Government in methodically assessing the value of these proposals.”

The Working Party is expected to deliver its report to the Government on hardship provisions in December 2010 and the rest of the issues by February 2011.

## DEMERIT POINT OFFENCE REDUCTIONS

### Roundabout/indicator offences

Road Rule	Offence	NSW points	National points	Proposed points
111 (1)&(2)	Not enter roundabout on left (leave less than halfway)	2	0	0
111 (1)&(3)	Not enter roundabout on right (leave more than halfway)	2	0	0
111 (1)&(5)	Not enter roundabout in direction of traffic lane arrow	2	0	0
116	Not drive in roundabout in direction of traffic lane arrow	2	0	0
118 (2)	Not stop left change of direction signal (exit roundabout)	2	0	0

### Keep left offences

Road Rule	Offence	NSW points	National points	Proposed points
130 (2)	Drive in right lane on road with speed limit over 80 km/h	3	2	2
130 (2)	Disobey keep left unless overtaking	3	2	2
131	Not keep left of oncoming vehicle	3	2	2
132 (1)	Not keep left of centre on two-way road	3	2	2
140	Overtake vehicle when unsafe	3	2	2
142 (1)	Overtake to right of vehicle turning right/making U-Turn	3	2	2
144 (a)	Overtake vehicle too closely	3	2	2
144 (b)	Cut in front of vehicle after overtaking	3	2	2

### Towing offences

Road Rule	Offence	NSW points	National points	Proposed points
294-3 (1)(a)	Not keep required distance (towing with tow-line)	2	0	0
294-3 (1)(e)	Not display warning flag as required	2	0	0

### Vehicle indicator offences

Road Rule	Offence	NSW points	National points	Proposed points
46 (4)	Not stop left change of direction signal	2	0	0
48 (4)	Not stop right change of direction signal	2	0	0
Rule 51	Operate indicator light contrary to permitted use	2	0	0

Dedicated lane offences

Road Rule	Offence	NSW points	National points	Proposed points
154	Drive in bus lane	3	0	1
155	Drive in tram lane	3	3	0
157	Drive in truck lane	3	0	0
157-1	Drive in a T-Way	3	0	1