

MEDIA RELEASE

David Campbell MP
Minister for Transport
Minister for the Illawarra



POLICE BLITZ BEGINS AS MOTORISTS ARE URGED TO SLOWDOWN

Thursday 1 October 2009

Minister for Transport David Campbell today called on motorists to slow down and drive safely this long weekend, or risk losing their licence.

Mr Campbell said a four day Police blitz - *Operation Slowdown* – would get underway from midnight tonight to catch motorists who speed, drink drive or refuse to wear seat belts.

“We’re asking every motorist to slow down and take care over the long weekend so you or your passengers don’t become another number added to the road toll,” he said.

“The start of the school holidays, as well as the NRL Grand Final in Sydney, mean there will be much more traffic on our roads than usual, and forecast wet weather means motorists will need to take even more caution.

“There will be extra Police on the roads across the State from tonight and you can expect to be breath tested and have your speed checked. If you’re intent on doing the wrong thing and putting yourself, your passengers and other motorists at risk, you will get caught.

“But the serious penalties you’ll cop if you’re speeding or drink driving are nothing compared to losing a loved one or causing a crash that kills someone.

“Last October long weekend, eight people were killed on our roads and there were nearly 650 crashes. The road toll this year is already 350 – 74 more than the same time last year.

“This is extremely concerning so the message to everyone who’s getting behind the wheel this long weekend is - please slow down, take care and arrive safely.”

Double demerit points will also apply for speeding and seatbelt offences. The double demerit period includes a school day tomorrow, Friday 2 October, so motorists should take extra care to watch their speed when driving through school zones.

Learners and provisional drivers will have their licences automatically suspended for any speeding offence during the double demerit period and extra fines and points apply for offences in school zones.

Operation Slowdown will run from midnight tonight until 11.59pm Monday 5 October.

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