

28.03.25

Transport for NSW
231 Elizabeth Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Suite 1, Level 26, 201 Kent Street
Sydney NSW 2000 Australia
Telephone +61 2 8298 4500
College.NSW@surgeons.org
www.surgeons.org
ABN 29 004 167 766

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Roads Act 1993 Review submission by RACS NSW Trauma Committee

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS), formed in 1927 is the leading advocate for surgical standards, professionalism and surgical education in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand, supporting more than 7,000 surgeons and 1,300 surgical trainees and Surgical International Medical Graduates.

As the peak body for surgery in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand we are very focused on the best outcomes for our patients and our communities, particularly within our State and Territory based Trauma Committees. The RACS NSW Trauma Committee has a strong voice in advocating for community safety. The Committee highlights that road trauma is an enormous problem and if this is addressed through legislation, we would encourage our voice be heard as a key stakeholder.

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) NSW Trauma Committee submits the following recommendations for the review of the Roads Act 1993:

Vision Zero Commitment

We strongly recommend that the NSW Government codify a Vision Zero commitment to road safety in the new Roads Act. This aligns with the National Road Safety Strategy 2021-30, which targets zero deaths and serious injuries by 2030¹³. Adopting this commitment would position NSW as a leader in road safety legislation among Australian states and territories.

Comprehensive Safety Focus

The Act should:

1. Incorporate safety and risk assessment throughout all decision-making processes.
2. Address current and future road usage patterns, including emerging technologies like motorized scooters.
3. Specify the role of road authorities in road safety program delivery, particularly in Part 8: Regulation of Traffic.

Local Council Empowerment

We recommend enabling local councils to:

1. Lower speed limits (40km/h or lower) as part of place-making initiatives.
2. Implement road safety measures through community consultation.

This approach has proven successful in various locations, including Mildura, Mornington Peninsula, and international examples⁷.

Stakeholder Engagement



Committed to
Indigenous health

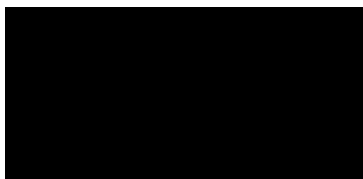
The Act should mandate ongoing engagement with relevant stakeholders, including health professionals, to ensure the highest standards of safety for our communities.

Enforcement

We suggest empowering the Minister to direct road authorities to take specific actions regarding traffic regulation, with non-compliance costs recoverable from the authority³.

By implementing these recommendations, the new Roads Act can create safer environments focused on zero injuries and deaths, while also addressing efficiency and adaptability concerns.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Vikram Puttaswamy
RACS NSW Trauma Committee Chair on behalf of the RACS NSW Trauma Committee
Specially noting contributions from Dr John Crozier

Suite 1 Level 26 201 Kent Street Sydney NSW 2000 Australia

www.surgeons.org

Citations:

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