

1. HON. KEVIN ANDERSON MP

A letter has been received from Hon. Kevin Anderson MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Roads, Maritime and Transport regarding speed limits when passing emergency vehicles (**See Attachment No. 1**).

RECOMMENDATION

That the information be noted.



Kevin Anderson MP
Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Roads, Maritime and Transport
Member for Tamworth

Our Ref: 00437430

Councillor Craig Davies
Mayor
Narromine Shire Council
PO Box 115
NARROMINE NSW 2821

Dear Cr Davies, *Craig*

Thank you for your correspondence to the Premier and the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight about introducing a 40 km/h speed limit when passing emergency vehicles. The Minister has asked me to respond on her behalf.

I note Council's concerns and recognise the important role of emergency services personnel in the community. I am advised crashes involving a parked emergency vehicle represented 0.04 per cent of crashes on NSW roads in the five years to 2016. In NSW, existing laws include provisions to deter drivers from endangering emergency services workers and first responders in the line of duty. For example, NSW Road Rules 78 and 79 contain provisions requiring drivers to keep clear or give way to police and emergency vehicles which are displaying flashing blue or red lights, or sounding an alarm.

The *Road Transport Act 2013* also includes provisions to consider heightened risk around breakdowns and emergency response situations when charging a driver with negligent, furious or reckless driving. If the driving offence caused death or serious injury, the penalty may include large fines and/or imprisonment.

The NSW Government's *Breakdown Safety Guide* warns drivers to reduce speed by 30 km/h around breakdowns, and the '*Slow Down Give Us Space*' video campaign also reinforces the message for drivers to slow down around emergency vehicles. I encourage you to share this video and important message with the Council's stakeholders to help further educate drivers about road safety. Further information is available at <http://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/campaigns/slowdownandgiveusspace.html>.

The NSW Government is also spending a record \$282 million in 2017-18 to improve road safety, including education campaigns, road upgrades as well as high-visibility police enforcement across NSW.

I hope this has been of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Kevin Anderson MP
Parliamentary Secretary

22.2.2018

NARROMINE SHIRE COUNCIL	
FILE No:	
OWNER:	
DATE:	02 MAR 2018
INFO:	
COMMENTS:	