



## SCHOOLZONELIGHTS.COM.AU MEDIA RELEASE



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### SCHOOL ZONE INCONSISTENCIES RISKING LIVES/LICENCES

School zone lights campaigner Peter Olsen today slammed the State Government and RTA over major inconsistencies with school zones that he claims are risking children's lives and resulting in drivers facing unfair fines and loss of licence.

"The Government regularly claims *"nothing is more important than the safety of our kids"*, yet the school zones that are supposed to protect them are a confusing and frustrating mess," Mr Olsen said.

"If the Roads Minister is as concerned as he claims about child safety and about the numerous drivers who are losing their licences, he should be issuing a "please explain" to the RTA.

#### **1. Existence of 40kmh Zones**

**St Joseph's Primary, cnr Newbridge Rd & Nuwarra Rd Moorebank**  
**Liverpool West Primary, cnr Hoxton Park Rd & Flowerdale Rd Liverpool**  
**Freeman Catholic High, cnr Cowpasture Rd & Mount St Bonnyrigg**  
**St Gertrude Primary, cnr Cumberland Hwy & Neville St Smithfield**

At the above schools there is no 40kmh school zone on the first-named major road even though the school gate is only a short distance along the side street from the intersection.

*Compare that with:*

#### **Mt Annan Christian College, Currans Hill**

There is a 40kmh school zone on Narellan Rd even though the school is 900m from Narellan Rd on a side street. Narellan Rd is no busier than the above roads.

**Fairfield West Primary, Cumberland Hwy Fairfield**  
**Bonnyrigg High, Elizabeth Drive Bonyrigg**  
**Fairfield Primary/High, The Horsley Drive Fairfield**  
**Wiley Park Primary, King Georges Rd Wiley Park**  
**Moorefield Girls High, Princes Hwy Kogarah**

The above schools each have a fence down the median strip plus a pedestrian overpass, yet they also have a 40kmh zone. In the case of Fairfield West Primary School there is no entrance from the school to the main road, exactly the same as the schools listed above. Why the difference, other than to increase revenue?

## **2. Consecutive School Zones**

### **Beverly Hills Girls High / Beverly Hills Primary, King Georges Rd Beverly Hills**

There were originally two school zones several hundred metres apart. They were turned into one long 40kmh zone when the speed cameras were installed. The revenue-raising cameras were installed right in the middle, nowhere near either school.

*Compare that with:*

### **Fairfield West Primary / Westfield Sports High, Hamilton Rd Fairfield West**

There are two separate 40kmh school zones with just 75m of 60kmh road in between. At 60kmh a car travels that distance in 4.5 seconds. Why were the two zones at Beverly Hills combined into one and not this one, other than to increase revenue?

## **3. 40kmh in One Direction Only**

At the above location on Hamilton Rd Fairfield West, which is a normal undivided road, the short 60kmh stretch inexplicably exists in the eastbound direction only. Westbound it is 40kmh the entire distance. Worse still the two schools are on the eastbound side where the 60kmh stretch exists.

A child could easily believe it is 40kmh in both directions and be hit as a result of a car speeding up in that short 60kmh stretch.

## **4. 40kmh Signs Not Opposite Each Other**

### **Peakhurst Primary, Bonds Rd Peakhurst, Northbound Seven Hills North Primary, Seven Hills Rd Seven Hills, Northbound**

In each case the 40kmh sign on the right-hand side of the road is around 35m before the sign on the left and painted 40 sign on the road.

If a child is hit and killed by a car doing 60kmh in that 35m stretch of road, will the driver be at fault?

## **5. Hidden 40kmh signs**

### **St Francis Xaviers Primary, Forest Rd Arncliffe, Eastbound**

At numerous schools all over Sydney, including the above, either one or both 40kmh signs are partially or totally obscured by trees, power poles, road signs etc. In many cases the signs have clearly been like that since installation. That negligence/neglect by the RTA shows no concern for the safety of children or the protection of drivers from unfair fines.

## **6. Hidden or Missing “End School Zone” signs**

### **Fairfield West Primary / Westfield Sports High, Hamilton Rd Fairfield West**

The End School Zone sign is totally obscured by a large tree.

### **St Thomas Mores Primary, Francis Ave Brighton-le-Sands**

There is no End School Zone sign at all on Gordon St. Instead a start 40kmh sign has been installed by mistake. It has been like that for years.

Both of the above situations and others like it force drivers to guess when the 40kmh zones end. If they make a similar guess on King Georges Rd Beverly Hills, 500m after passing the school, they get booked by the speed camera.

## **7. Inadequate Speed Camera Warning Signs**

None of the warning signs leading up to the new school zone speed cameras indicate the standard speed limit that applies for the other 21 hours per day, as pointed out in a recent media release. See [www.schoolzonelights.com.au/media2009-02-27a.pdf](http://www.schoolzonelights.com.au/media2009-02-27a.pdf)

The above situations can all be viewed via Google Earth / Google Maps / Google Streetview.

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