



Greg Piper, MP
Member for Lake Macquarie



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Greg Piper Demands a Fair Go for Drivers

Mr Greg Piper, Member for Lake Macquarie, welcomes the Roads Minister 's recent commitment to reducing demerit points for low range speeding offences but believes that there are other important iniquities in the system.

“The Minister is correct in amending the law under which two minor speeding offences would see a driver disqualified for three months. Part of the problem is that those offences and subsequent penalties have no regard for the differing number of kilometres travelled by drivers”, Mr Piper said. “This is a trap that’s catching many who are obviously not ‘hoons’ or irresponsible drivers.”

“The greatest distortion of natural justice occurs when a Magistrate dismisses a minor speeding offence because of extenuating circumstances. Under that scenario the Magistrate does not have the power to stop the RTA applying demerit points for someone caught by a speed camera, even if the offender was driving an accident victim to hospital”, Mr Piper said.

In Parliament today, Mr Piper asked Premier Nathan Rees whether the Government believes it reasonable that penalty points are applied even where a Magistrate dismisses a traffic infringement and regardless of the circumstances. He also asked whether the authority to determine this should be returned to the judiciary.

“We know the Government is financially challenged and relies heavily on camera income, but the cost of this change would be almost nothing. You never know, they might even get some kudos if they play a straight ball on this one”, Mr Piper said.

Mr Piper has written to the Minister for Roads, Hon Michael Daley, asking for a review of the jurisdiction currently granted to the RTA under 14 (2) (a) of Road Transport (Driver Licensing) Act 1998 with a view to its repeal or amendment.