



**Greg Piper, MP**  
**Member for Lake Macquarie**



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### **Greg Piper Defends Drivers**

Greg Piper, Member for Lake Macquarie, last night told Parliament that he would like to see the review of the demerit points system include giving power to the courts to dismiss points penalties.

Under the current system, a court can dismiss a fine, but not demerit points.

Mr Piper has previously raised the matter in Parliament and in response Premier Rees said that there will always be exceptional circumstances and therefore the law should be flexible.

According to Mr Piper, this flexibility should apply when drivers have committed minor breaches and there are extenuating circumstances. "It is reasonable that such cases should be resolved without even going to court" said Mr Piper.

According to Mr Piper, the new rules proposed by Minister for Roads, the Honourable Michael Daley, include reduced points for minor speeding offences but no option for courts to dismiss points.

"Occasionally there are circumstances where the judiciary dismisses a fine but the RTA still imposes the points penalty," said Mr Piper. "If a driver can convince a judge, why is this not good enough for the RTA?" he asked.

Mr Piper has asked the Minister for Roads to restore the judiciary's authority to make such decisions when a driver has presented convincing evidence against a penalty.