



Greg Piper MP

Member for Lake Macquarie



MEDIA RELEASE

12 June 2009

RTA PENALTY CHANGES NOT ENOUGH

Greg Piper, Member for Lake Macquarie, welcomes today's announcement that the Government reduced penalties for minor speeding offences, but says that Roads Minister Michael Daley has still missed an important point in fair treatment of minor offences.

According to Mr Piper, a court can dismiss traffic infringements and waive fines for minor offences, but the RTA will still count the points and this can lead to a driver's licence being cancelled.

Mr Piper questioned Premier Rees about this anomaly in Parliament in November last year and Mr Rees promised a review of the situation. The Premier even cited an example of a driver moving into a bus lane to avoid a speeding ambulance and said that in such cases there should be no points and no penalty. This may be true, but it relies on the offence being technically disproved. A more common outcome is that the offence is waived but the RTA still imposes penalty points, which can lead to disqualification from driving.

"If a court decides there should be no penalty the RTA should be bound by this," Mr Piper said.

"Mr Rees has said that judicial discretion will be reviewed, but this hasn't happened," Mr Piper added. "This announcement doesn't deliver the flexibility that the judiciary should have."

Media Contacts: Greg Piper 0407 770837
Peter Morris 0409 659649

Electorate Office 4959 3200
www.gregpiper1.com