



Greg Piper, MP
Member for Lake Macquarie



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GREG PIPER DEFENDS OLDER DRIVERS

Greg Piper, Member for Lake Macquarie, has criticised the RTA's proposed 10km limit for older drivers.

Mr Piper spoke against the proposed restrictions in Parliament last week, saying that the proposed changes have great potential to impact on older drivers.

"The RTA's proposed changes won't deliver a benefit and they're not fair." said Mr Piper. "Older drivers feel that they are under attack when all they ask is to maintain their lifestyle, independence and dignity."

A recent discussion paper explains the RTA's plans for medical examinations, licence testing and radius restrictions for older drivers. According to the RTA, there have been 25,000 submissions.

On 7 September Mr Piper's office e-mailed the RTA for clarification on parts of the proposed changes, but there has been no reply yet.

In response to a follow-up phone call, an RTA officer acknowledged that there is much evidence showing that older drivers are safer when they drive in a familiar environment and that frequently they self-restrict their driving movements.

Mr Piper said "Older drivers are capable able of deciding on familiarity without an arbitrary limit. The licensing system should acknowledge and accommodate this."