

17 February 2011

Alan Tesch
Chair
Safety Standing Committee
GPO Box 564
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Tesch

Re: Draft National Road Safety Strategy 2011 – 2020

The South Australian Farmers Federation (SAFF) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the draft National Road Safety Strategy 2011 - 2020.

The aim of this ten year plan is to reduce the annual number of deaths and serious injuries on Australian roads by at least 30%. In supporting this aim, SAFF insist that all in the community must be involved in the processes needed to achieve this aim without unfairly increasing the burden on either the agricultural or transport industries.

In general terms it would appear that the draft strategy does appear to take an approach that is fair on all road users. However, SAFF is concerned about suggestions to:

- decrease speed limits in country areas
- ban bull bars
- raise the licencing age
- not allow hands free mobile phone use while driving
- lower speed limits for heavy vehicles.

Rather than implementing the above, SAFF supports changing the attitude of drivers so that they abide by the current road rules. In general terms the current road rules should be sufficient to ensure road safety. Overtime, improvements to road construction should be giving safer roads if drivers also drive carefully.

Of course there is still some fine tuning of the road rules required such as achieving consistencies on speed limits – why is the speed limit past road works 25kmh but 40kmh for emergency services? The main emphasis for the Road Safety Strategy needs to be on changing the attitude of drivers.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Carol Vincent', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Carol Vincent
CHIEF EXECUTIVE