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MR HAROLD SCRUBY

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Mr Harold Scruby  
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Dear Harold

Thank you for your electronic mail message dated 19 June, 2003 regarding *Shared Zones*.

For the third time, the RTA raised the issue of renaming *Shared Zones* to *Pedestrian Priority Zones* or *Pedestrian Zones* with the Australian Road Rules (ARR) Maintenance Group at its meeting on 3 July, 2003. However, all States, with the exception of NSW, voted against the change of name to *Pedestrian Priority Zone* on the basis that the ARR do not refer anywhere to anyone or any thing having 'priority'. The Maintenance Group rejected the proposal to change the name of *Shared Zones* to *Pedestrian Zones* on the basis of roads generally being for vehicles, where as in a *Shared Zone*, a driver must share the space with pedestrians and give way to any pedestrian in the zone. Additionally, the Group felt that the term *Pedestrian Zone* would indicate that the area was for pedestrians only and that drivers should not drive in such a zone. The Group further reinforced that the erection of *Give Way to Pedestrians* supplementary plates in conjunction with *Shared Zone* signs reinforces a driver's obligation to give way to pedestrians in a *Shared Zone*.

It would not be appropriate for the RTA to change the name of *Shared Zones* in the absence of a national approach to the issue. The RTA will continue to erect *Give Way to Pedestrians* supplementary plates in conjunction with *Shared Zone* signs.

As stated in previous correspondence, as vehicle speeds increase, the risk of serious injury or death to pedestrians involved in a collision with vehicles increases. In order to minimise the risk to pedestrians in *Shared Zones*, the RTA has mandated that a speed limit of 10 km/h will apply. This speed closely represents the walking speed of pedestrians (85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 4.3 km/h) in contrast to a speed limit of 20 km/h. A speed limit of 20 km/h in a *Shared Zone* would introduce a difference five times in magnitude in 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed between vehicles and pedestrians.

Once again, I appreciate your comments on vehicle speedometers. However, in the interest of pedestrian safety and amenity, the RTA does not support the introduction of speed limits higher than 10 km/h for *Shared Zones*.

The allocation of demerit points and an increase in the penalty to drivers who fail to give way to pedestrians in a *Shared Zone* is being considered as part of the current review of traffic penalties.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Forward', written over a white background.

Paul Forward  
Chief Executive