

MEDIA RELEASE

11 February 2009

SCHOOL ZONE LIGHTS ROLLOUT SCHEDULE CALLED FOR

School Zone Lights campaigner, Peter Olsen, today called on the Roads Minister, Michael Daley, to release a list of the remaining 275 school zones (out of 11,000) that are to receive flashing lights under the Government's current \$46.5M rollout program.

"On 3rd February 2009 the Roads Minister named the next 25 school zones that will receive flashing lights. The Minister said the other 75 school zones to have lights fitted this year would not be identified until *"later in the year"*.

"The Government and RTA have spent tens of millions of dollars and 6 years trialling school zone flashing lights. Surely after all that time and money they know by now which schools *"need them most"*, to use the Minister's words, or are they waiting for more child injuries or deaths before deciding?

"Many schools and parents have contacted me over the past 3 years to ask how they can get flashing lights installed at their schools. It is unacceptable that neither the Government nor the RTA can tell them if or when the RTA will be installing lights at their schools.

"The Minister claimed in his media release: *"Nothing's more important than the safety of our kids and our focus is on making travel to and from school as safe as possible."*

"The RTA's 2006 report into flashing lights found that they reduced the risk of fatalities by 11% and injuries by 6% (1) . In spite of that 96% of school zones (10,500) will never have flashing lights and the Minister cannot even name those schools that will have. What *"focus"* on child safety does that show?

"Unlike the Government and RTA I will be making my flashing lights available to any school in NSW that wants them, because I believe that the schools themselves, not Government bureaucrats, are in the best position to know where the lights are needed most.

"The names of the next schools to receive my lights will be announced shortly. My intention is to install two sets of flashing lights to every set installed by the RTA, assuming the availability of sufficient sponsorship funding.

For more details contact:

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References:

1. http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/roadsafety/downloads/finalreport_flashinglights_2006.pdf p.67, final paragraph

