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RYDE COUNCIL APPROVES SCHOOL ZONE FLASHING LIGHTS

School zone lights campaigner Peter Olsen today announced that Ryde Council had given formal approval for the installation of privately funded school zone flashing lights in the Ryde area.

“The Liberal member for Ryde, Victor Dominello, contacted me earlier in the year to enquire about the installation of flashing lights at schools in his electorate. He was the first local member to take the initiative on behalf of his constituents.

“He said that a number of schools had contacted him about the possibility of having flashing lights installed. He said he had written to the Roads Minister on their behalf but had simply received the standard canned reply stating that lights were being installed at 400 school zones that were chosen based on accident history, crash risk, blah, blah, blah.

“He said the response effectively meant that most schools in his area would miss out, which he was not prepared to accept given that the RTA’s 2006 report had found that flashing lights reduced the risk of fatal accidents around schools by 11%.

“To ensure that everything was done properly a formal request for approval was put to Ryde Council. The Ryde Traffic Committee contacted the RTA to seek approval. The response from the RTA contained false and misleading information that was aimed at having the proposal rejected.

“The matter was considered at the Ryde Council meeting held on 12th May. The outcome was a unanimous vote in favour of allowing the lights to proceed. The Council is clearly more concerned about the safety of children in the Ryde area than the RTA or Government.

“Installation of the first set of lights is expected to commence shortly.

For more information contact Peter Olsen, 0414-538-404.