



## SCHOOLZONELIGHTS.COM.AU MEDIA RELEASE



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### SCHOOL ZONE DRAGON'S TEETH INEFFECTIVE ACCORDING TO ROADS MINISTER

School zone lights campaigner Peter Olsen has today highlighted a major inconsistency in Government claims over the effectiveness of the so-called dragon's teeth road markings that the Government intends to spend \$14M on.

"When the dragon's teeth were announced on 24 May 2009, the Minister for Roads, Michael Daley, made the following claim:

*"These new triangular line-markings are used internationally and are a proven way of making sure motorists know when they are driving through a 40kmh school zone."*

[http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/newsevents/downloads/minister\\_releases/24052009\\_schoolzones.pdf](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/newsevents/downloads/minister_releases/24052009_schoolzones.pdf)

That directly contradicts a statement made by the Minister in a radio interview on 12 December 2008, when he said that according to "heavy research" such additional road markings are ineffective, a fact he said that couldn't be argued about. Quote:

*"What some people advocate is to put signs and lights and **markings on roads and painting on roads** and bells and whistles all over our traffic system and the conventional wisdom, that's backed up by pretty heavy research, is that the more messages, the more signs, the more lights, **the more lines**, the more indicators that you have on a roadway, that people just have too much to look at, they can't take it all in, it becomes too onerous and in time they just become desensitised to it, and **you can't argue about that fact.**"*

Full interview at <http://www.schoolzonelights.com.au/publicity.html> under 12 December.

"The Minister was attempting to justify why he did not support the installation of flashing lights at all schools, but the comments are far more damning in relation to the proposed dragon's teeth.

"I call on the Government to scrap the dragon's teeth proposal and instead commit to installing flashing lights at all 3,200 schools in NSW, which can be done for the same \$14M.

"To be precise, the Government is installing lights at 566 schools. Privately funded lights have been installed at another 20 schools leaving 2,614 schools for \$14M or \$5,355 per school. Reliable lights are available for around \$1,500 per sign or \$3,000 per school including installation. The RTA has even been given the technology to use for nothing.

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