

MEDIA STATEMENT

16 January 2019

Speed limits manual updated to better consider safety

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) has updated the manual that road authorities use to review speed limits on Queensland roads.

Updates to the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices Part 4: Speed Controls have simplified criteria and improved the consideration of safety in setting speed limits.

TMR's Deputy Director-General of Customer Services, Safety and Regulation, Mike Stapleton said the changes delivered more clarity around the technical process for setting speed limits.

"This is a technical update but an important one in terms of improving road safety," Mr Stapleton said.

"The main objective of these changes is to ensure our roads have credible, consistent and safe speed limits."

Mr Stapleton said the safety of all road users was paramount.

"Risk rating tools and risk thresholds have been developed, based on international research, to formalise how safety risks are considered in the technical assessment of speed limits," Mr Stapleton said.

"Setting speed limits in areas of high pedestrian and/or bike rider activity has been consolidated, simplified and enhanced.

"Sadly, pedestrians and people who ride bikes are over-represented in Queensland's fatal and serious injury numbers and we need to do all we can to address this.

"Appropriate speed limit setting in designated High Active Transport User Areas is one way we can improve safety, and the manual provides better guidance on this.

"TMR also confirmed with the Board of Professional Engineers Queensland that in accordance with the Professional Engineering Act, speed limit reviews are required to be done by, or carried out under the supervision of, a Registered Professional Engineer Queensland (RPEQ).

"The process considers community input along with road, traffic and road safety technical considerations."

Revisions to the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices Part 4 (Speed Controls) were undertaken in consultation with local government and included technical representatives from across the state.

In 2019 TMR plans to develop and release an online tool based on the manual to help engineers and technicians conduct a speed limit review. This will replace the now-obsolete Qlimits.

TMR is also delivering training in the new process for people conducting speed limit reviews.

Engineers and technical officers within local governments, TMR districts, and consulting firms are invited to register their interest in attending a training workshop by sending their contact details to speedlimitreview@tmr.qld.gov.au

Mr Stapleton said TMR had also amended guidelines in the Traffic and Road Use Management (TRUM) manual regarding the installation of school zones.

“TMR received feedback from councils that the previous TRUM guidelines were too narrow where school zones were concerned,” Mr Stapleton said.

“Previously, a council may have received community requests to make part of a local road a school zone, but that request may not have met the criteria under the previous guidelines.

“These updated TRUM guidelines encompass road safety considerations, including traffic impacts around points of entry to and exit from school grounds.”

ENDS

Media contact: TMR Media Unit, 3066 7060