Speed is a major cause of crashes in Queensland. Forty-eight people were killed in speed-related crashes in Queensland in 2011, which represents approximately 18 per cent of the Queensland road toll. Driving at any speed above the posted speed limit is illegal and dangerous.

Speed kills, injures, disables and disfigures people. Speed not only affects the speeding driver, it can also affect your passengers, innocent motorists and vulnerable road users including pedestrians, young children and cyclists.

To combat the devastating consequences of speeding in Queensland, the Speed Management Strategy 2010-2013 has been jointly developed by the Department of Transport and Main Roads and the Queensland Police Service.

Why the focus on speeding?
Speed is consistently one of the top contributing factors to fatal road crashes. The Queensland Speed Surveys undertaken in May 2009 and November 2009 revealed between 20 and 50 per cent of motorists state-wide do not comply with the posted speed limit, dramatically increasing their risk of being involved in a crash. It is not safe to speed in any circumstance, regardless of how experienced a driver you are, how good your car is, or whether you are driving on a busy street or an open country road. Speeding increases stopping distances and your risk of a crash. It is basic physics – the faster you travel, the longer it takes to stop and the harder you hit.

How is the government managing speed in Queensland?
The Queensland Speed Management Strategy 2010-2013 sets an agreed vision for the future of speed management in Queensland, and focuses on initiatives such as enforcement, education and engineering to reduce speed-related crashes. Road safety researchers agree that these three factors must work together to contribute to reducing the road toll. The community also needs to take an active role in speed management. Everyone needs to take responsibility for their on-road behaviour and together we can reduce the number and severity of crashes on Queensland roads.

What is the aim of the Speed Management Strategy 2010-2013?
The Strategy aims to increase compliance with speed limits amongst road users, and encourage drivers and riders to travel at appropriate speeds for the conditions. This in turn will reduce road trauma, specifically speed-related crashes, and promote safer roads for all motorists.

What are the key initiatives in the Speed Management Strategy?
The Strategy identifies a number of actions focusing on enforcement, education and engineering based on current best practice in speed management as researched and evaluated in Australia and overseas. Some of the key initiatives are listed below. Read the strategy available at www.tmr.qld.gov.au for the full listing of initiatives.

- **Enforcement**
  The government is committed to promoting safe speeds among road users through effective enforcement.
  - Digital camera technology including combined red light/speed cameras and a point-to-point system has been introduced as part of the ongoing development of the Camera Detected Offence Program which detects and penalises motorists speeding and running red lights.
The unpredictability of speed enforcement has been enhanced, with covert mobile speed cameras introduced to reinforce the anywhere, anytime approach to speed management. Research has shown that a combination of overt and covert speed enforcement is effective in deterring speeding.

The suitability of vehicle impoundment for high-level/repeat speed offenders will be investigated.

- **Education**
  Road safety research has proven that public education campaigns, in combination with enforcement, have a strong potential to result in behavioural change.
  - Proactive anti-speeding public education campaigns and publicity will continue to be run.
  - The impacts of speeding will be incorporated into road safety education in schools throughout the state.
  - Resources will be used to promote consistent messages about speed by road safety educators and other agencies.

- **Engineering**
  The engineering of roads and roadsides can discourage speeding and reduce the number of crashes and their severity. Reductions in speed limits, in combination with signage and police enforcement, has a strong potential for the reduction of fatalities.
  - Speed limit guidelines will be reviewed and relevant agencies will be encouraged to review existing speed limits in light of any changes. Reduced speed limit treatment has already been implemented on some Queensland roads and is proving successful.
  - Speed data collection across the Queensland road network will be enhanced and maintained.
  - Speed management around schools will be reviewed, including the use of school zones on multi-lane roads.
  - Signs that actively warn drivers and riders when they are travelling at unsafe speeds for the conditions will continue to be rolled out across the state.
  - Variable speed limits on selected high traffic motorways to better manage driver speeds for the prevailing conditions will continue to be installed.

**Was there any consultation undertaken for this strategy?**
The Strategy was developed by the Department of Transport and Main Roads and the Queensland Police Service in consultation with key stakeholders, including the RACQ, Brisbane City Council, Local Government Association of Queensland, Centre for Accident Research and Road Safety – Queensland, and the Australian Trucking Association.

**What can I do to contribute to reducing speed related fatalities and injuries in Queensland?**
The government cannot combat speeding on its own. By being more aware of your own driving behaviour and complying with speed limits you will be promoting a safer road environment for all motorists. Your behaviour behind the wheel and your attitude towards obeying the speed limit can actively make a difference.

**For more information**
Department of Transport and Main Roads website:
www.tmr.qld.gov.au