



Government Media Statement

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DOUG PARKINSON, MLC
Chairman, Tasmanian Road Safety Council

NEW SPEED LIMIT FOR NORTH HOBART

North Hobart's shopping and restaurant strip will soon become a more pedestrian-friendly zone following today's announcement of a new 40 km/h speed limit on Elizabeth Street between Federal and Burnett Streets.

This is only the second precinct in Tasmania where such a speed limit applies – the other is Battery Point.

The previous speed limit through North Hobart was 50 km/h.

The chairman of the Tasmanian Road Safety Council, Doug Parkinson, MLC, said at today's launch that the reduced speed limit was one of the first outcomes from Tasmania's recent speed zoning review.

"North Hobart will also be adopting a designated driver program which has already proved very successful in Burnie," he said.

"The speed zoning review - one of the most extensive public consultation exercises in the history of Tasmanian road safety policy development – was based on a simple proposition: If traffic can be slowed just a few kilometres an hour, crashes can be avoided and lives can be saved.

"This especially applies in areas of high pedestrian traffic, such as in school zones and in shopping and restaurant strips like North Hobart.

"The restaurant strip between Federal and Burnett Streets had 19 crashes involving pedestrians between 1999 and 2003 – something which has concerned the North Hobart Residents Association.

“The Hobart Community Road Safety Partnership – one of 12 such groups around Tasmania – has developed a package of initiatives which will be implemented to increase safety for pedestrians in the North Hobart area as well as the wider Hobart municipal area.

“They include the introduction of the 40 km/h speed limit through the North Hobart restaurant area, highlighted by future road markings at all exit and entry points.

“We’re also introducing for the first time in Southern Tasmania a designated driver program, known as *Who’s Des Tonight?* which has had outstanding success in Burnie,” Mr Parkinson said.

“It aims to encourage the use of designated drivers who take responsibility for getting their friends home safely after a night out in order to minimise the consequences of drink driving.

“In North Hobart it will be promoted through the Queens Head Hotel, The Republic Bar and Café and the Sir William Don Hotel.”

Another facet of the strategy involves a partnership with Recording Artists, Actors and Athletes Against Drink Driving (RADD) and Carl Fidler and cricketer Michael Bevan were at today’s launch to represent RADD.