

Minister Tony Piccolo

Minister for Road Safety

Wednesday, 27 May, 2015

27 per cent drop in casualty crashes on roads reduced to 100km/h

An investigation using 20 years of crash data has shown a 27.4 per cent drop in casualty crashes on regional roads where the speed limit was reduced from 110 km/h to 100 km/h.

The findings were released in a report today by the Centre for Automotive Safety Research at the University of Adelaide using 10 years of crash data both before and after the speed limit changed in 2003.

Road Safety Minister Tony Piccolo said that in July 2003, the speed limit on 1,100kms of rural arterial roads in South Australia was reduced from 110km/h to 100km/h.

“Early analysis had suggested that there was a 20 per cent reduction in casualty crashes but now this is much closer to 30 per cent,” Mr Piccolo said.

“Also, we know that regardless of the cause of a crash, a reduction in speed significantly reduces its severity.

“Less road trauma also has a beneficial economic outcome. The report estimates crash savings due to the lowered speed limits at around \$67 million in the 10 years since they were introduced.”

CASR Research Fellow Craig Kloeden said survey data also suggests that speeds, particularly high speeds, have continued to fall on the roads that were reduced in the 10 years since the speed limit was lowered.

“This is another in a long line of studies showing that lower speed limits do in fact lead to fewer fatalities and injuries on our roads,” Mr Kloeden said.

“Since the speed limit reduction, it is estimated that 15 lives have been saved and 230 injuries have been prevented.

“Even small changes in speed can have big effects on safety.”

Regional forums, which include speakers from CASR, are continuing to be held with local councils to discuss speed.

This issue and other important road safety matters form part of the Government’s road safety survey.

The public can still contribute to the discussion until 5pm Friday, 29 May. The online survey takes 15 minutes and is located at www.yoursay.sa.gov.au/roadsafety

The report released today is available at <http://casr.adelaide.edu.au>