



Public Health Association
AUSTRALIA

The Mayor, Damien Ryan
Alice Springs Town Council
PO Box 1061
Alice Springs NT 0871
By email: astc@astc.nt.gov.au

Dear Mr Ryan

I write to express my concern, on behalf of the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) for road safety in Alice Springs. PHAA notes that Alice Springs remains one of the few urban areas in Australia where speed limits in built up areas are above 50km/h. It may interest you that speed limits in much of Melbourne have been further reduced to 40km/h in the interests of safety and amenity.

The PHAA, like the Alice Springs Town Council, seeks to build communities where people can live life to their full potential.

Motor vehicle crashes are an important cause of injury and loss of life potential everywhere. Speed is an important contributor to motor vehicle crashes, in both urban and rural areas. In fact the risk of a fatal crash is twice as high for a vehicle travelling at 60km/h as it is at 50km/h.

The NT government gave local governments authority to determine their own default speed limits in 2004. All town councils in NT except Alice Springs have chosen 50km/h as their default limit. For your interest, Department of Planning and Infrastructure data shows that around 3 people every year are killed on the roads of your town.

Besides safety and preventing deaths on the roads there are additional important reasons to choose a slower speed limit. These include an improved urban environment and amenity. You will see a reduction in air pollution, and it is likely that more people will walk and cycle in Alice Springs.

It is also likely that traffic will flow more smoothly when people do not drive up to 60km/h as there is less slowing and speeding around traffic calming devices.

PHAA also supports the consistency of urban speed limits with the National Road Rules, and with other urban centres in NT. By taking the simple step of reducing the default speed limit in Alice Springs, you can protect your community and your family.

Dr Rosalie Schultz, a key member of the NT Branch of the PHAA has arranged to present a deputation to ASTC committee meeting on 17th May, and I urge you to take note of her presentation.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Moore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

cc
CEO Rex Mooney rmooney@astc.nt.gov.au
Mayor Damien Ryan dryan@astc.nt.gov.au
Dr Rosalie Schultz