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MEDIA RELEASE

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**LABOR'S FLASHING LIGHT FAILURE:
ROLL OUT TOO SLOW**

Shadow Minister for Roads Andrew Stoner today slammed the State Labor Government for its failure to roll out flashing lights in schools zones across NSW.

Today, private citizen Peter Olsen has installed flashing lights at Sophie Delezio's school, Balgowlah Heights Public School, in the absence of action from the State Government and RTA. Mr Olsen says he has offered his technology free of charge to the State Government and has no commercial interest in the flashing lights.

Last December Mr Olsen and Ron Delezio had met with Roads Minister Michael Daley. Mr Olsen said Daley said that if all schools had flashing lights then drivers would become "desensitised". Mr Olsen also said Daley was content with lights being installed at just 4% of school zones over four years at a cost of \$116,000 per school.

"Successive Labor Roads Ministers have talked long and hard about flashing lights in school zones, but they've dragged their feet on actually installing them," Mr Stoner said.

"It shouldn't have taken a private citizen in Peter Olsen to install flashing lights at Sophie Delezio's school in Balgowlah Heights," he said.

"It's inexcusable for Nathan Rees and Labor not to get on with this important safety measure for our school children.

"Fewer than 5% of the 11,000 schools zones across NSW have flashing lights despite strong evidence showing they slow drivers down.

"It's about time the State Labor Government got fair dinkum and directed the \$60 million collected from drivers speeding in school zones into installing the flashing lights.

"Why is the State Labor Government delaying the installation of these lights? For heaven's sake, can Labor just get on and install them.

"Roads Minister Michael Daley also needs to explain why the State Government insists on selecting the one of the most expensive providers of flashing light systems.

"Premier Rees and Minister Daley must understand they are dealing with the safety of our children.

"Labor has spent three years delaying flashing lights with trials, excuses and platitudes. Nathan Rees is showing all the decisiveness of his dithering predecessor, Morris Iemma.

"It's time Mr Rees stopped focusing on his party's divisions and started focusing on the issues affecting the people of NSW and accelerated the roll out of flashing lights," Mr Stoner said.

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