



SCHOOLZONELIGHTS.COM.AU MEDIA RELEASE



21 April 2009

APPLY PIRATE BAY RULING TO CAR MAKERS

School zone lights campaigner Peter Olsen says that in light of yet another high-speed multiple road fatality, this time at Marsfield, the government should be applying the Swedish Pirate Bay court ruling to car makers.

“On 17th April a court in Sweden found the creators of the Pirate Bay web site guilty of promoting copyright infringement and sentenced them to a year in jail plus a \$5M fine.

“They were found guilty even though their web site contained prominent warnings that the software should not be used to infringe copyright and even though it was the users of the software, not the creators, who infringed copyright.

“During the hearing the defence argued that Pirate Bay's services could be compared to car makers producing cars that can be driven faster than the speed limit.

“Pirate Bay cost other companies a lot of money but it killed nobody and it came with a warning against illegal use.

“Compare that with car makers who sell cars that can do twice the maximum speed limit or more. They know that their products are used illegally, but unlike Pirate Bay they not only provide no warnings against illegal use, they actually encourage it via advertisements that glorify speed.

“If the Pirate Bay creators are guilty of contributing to the infringement of copyright then car makers are guilty of contributing to the deaths of numerous people and should likewise be held accountable.

“The RTA shares equal culpability. A car's registration cannot be renewed if it has a faulty blinker, even though the chances of that causing a fatal accident are negligible, yet virtually every car that is registered is capable of exceeding the maximum permissible speed. The RTA and Government allow those cars to be registered even though they know that excessive speed is one of the main killers on our roads.

“I hereby call on the Government and RTA to phase in rules requiring car makers to limit the maximum possible speed of cars and to progressively require existing cars to be speed limited before they can be re-registered.

“Failing that I call on legal firms to commence a class action against car makers and the RTA seeking damages on behalf of those who have lost loved ones to excessive speed.

For more information contact Peter Olsen, 0414-538-404.