



# **Victor Dominello MP**

## **State Member for Ryde**

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Friday 31 July 2009

## **NSW State Government and RTA, Mismanaging School Safety Zones Again!**

State Member for Ryde Victor Dominello has today expressed concern about the Government and RTA's handling of school safety zones particularly in Ryde.

'For months, the NSW Labor Government denied my request for a school zone on Lane Cove Road. It is appalling that it took a child getting seriously injured for the Government to finally agree to install signs in the area,' said Mr Dominello.

'In a repeated act of stubborn defiance the Government refused to change the colour of new 40km signs when the NRMA called on them to do so. Then in typical Rees fashion, following some negative media, the Government suddenly agrees to adopt the new fluorescent colour not only on new signs but also existing ones'.

'I can understand the rationale of changing the colour of new signs, but replacing existing ones is just a huge waste of our hard earned tax dollars,' said Mr Dominello.

'The Government and the RTA have their priorities all wrong when it comes to school zone safety. 'Why is it that the Government is allocating money to changing the colour of existing 40km signs when this money could be used to install more flashing lights?' Mr Dominello said.

Flashing light activist Peter Olsen also condemned the Government's handling of school zone safety saying that, 'for the cost of doing dragons teeth alone, the Government could put flashing lights at all 3,200 schools in NSW. Add to that the cost of the stupid decision to change the colour of the signs and they could probably install two sets of flashing lights at every school'.

Mr Olsen raised a further concern about the Government's spending on maintenance of the flashing school zone signs. 'How can the RTA possibly justify spending \$2,000 per year for maintenance on each one of their flashing light signs,' said Mr Olsen.

'There should be no spending on maintenance if they were really the wonderful technology we keep hearing about. They have to change the battery once every three years at a cost of less than \$100 for the battery plus 30 minutes of labour for each sign; that is all,' Mr Olsen said.

'Mr Olsen has said that he can supply and install the signs, and run them for 20 years for less than that; with the annual maintenance being zero. It is time the Government and the RTA get their priorities straight regarding school zone safety. Young children's lives are being put at risk every day by this Government's unwillingness to work with Mr Olsen to ensure all schools have access to flashing lights,' said Mr Dominello.