

DR MARISA PATERSON MLA SPEECH

5 April 2022

Petition – Traffic calming measures in Kambah

As a local member for Murrumbidgee, I am pleased to support this e-petition from residents of Kambah and throughout the ACT who travel on, and have concerns about, Kambah roads.

The petitioners who signed the ‘Traffic calming measures in Kambah’ e-petition are calling on the ACT Government to undertake a traffic study of several roads in the Murrumbidgee area of Kambah and to take any necessary action to ensure community safety.

The e-petition was signed by 205 community members, with signatories noting that: “with various schools and shops in the area, the Government must ensure, for the safety of the community, that those driving in the area are doing so in accordance with speed limits and the law.”

The petitioners request the ACT Government to undertake a traffic study, investigate signage, take any necessary action, and provide feedback to the Kambah community.

From drivers, to pedestrians, to cyclists, no matter how we all choose to use the roads, road safety and restrictions are of great importance. The Road Transport Legislation Amendment Bill passed in this Assembly during the last sitting period is testament to this.

With the various local shops, schools, businesses, and residences in this area of Kambah, appropriate traffic measures are needed to ensure that the safety, health, and wellbeing of the community

Road conditions and traffic-calming measures have a significant impact on the safety and lifestyle of the Canberra community. Having the right measures in place supports the use of public transport and active travel – priorities of this Government, including in its ambitions to cut net emissions to zero by 2045.

Signage and road markings also play a vital role in achieving intended driver behaviour outcomes and, in turn, safety.

By making sure that the necessary signage, road markings, features, and structure of the roads reflect the design and safety intent, we make a significant contribution to all those who use our road network.

I note and support the ACT Government's commitment to Vision Zero. Vision Zero acknowledges that injuries and deaths on our roads, particularly those of vulnerable road users, are avoidable and preventable. Vision Zero means no deaths or injuries on Canberra roads.

Road safety is everyone's responsibility – the Government, the community, and individuals. By ensuring that the current road restrictions and conditions are well-suited and adhered to, the ACT Government is bringing Canberra closer to Vision Zero.

I commend the ACT Government on its continued commitment to the safety, maintenance, and upkeep of Canberra's roads to ensure that Canberrans are safe, that lifestyle choices including the use of public transport and active travel are promoted and facilitated, and that the ACT is well on the way towards Vision Zero.

I also encourage anyone who sees anti-social driving behaviours to report it to Crime Stoppers on 131 444 if you witness the act, or 1800 333 000 if you have information regarding anti-social driving.

I am pleased to have sponsored this petition on behalf of 206 community members about a traffic study in Kambah. I appreciate and thank everyone who took the time to sign this petition.

I look forward to the Minister's response and thank him in advance for his consideration, and his constant commitment to achieve positive road safety outcomes for Murrumbidgee and Canberra residents.

Thank you.

Ends