



Frome Electorate Office

Hon Geoff Brock MP, Member for Frome



26th September 2017

Country Road Speed Limits

"I'm extremely disappointed about the Government's recent decision to cut the speed limit on the Crystal Brook to Gulnare section of the Goyder Highway to 100km/h.

Like many locals, I cannot accept that this section of the highway requires a change of speed limit.

I travel on this road regularly and as far as I'm concerned, along with other drivers who've approached me about the reduction, it's in good driving condition.

Recently, I wrote to the previous Road Safety Minister seeking an urgent meeting with him, strongly requesting him to review the new limit.

I had previously met with him in June last year when I made it clear to him I did not support further speed reduction on our rural roads. I have not changed my position.

I met with the new Road Safety Minister today also seeking a further review of the reasons behind introducing the new limits on the Crystal Brook to Gulnare section of the Goyder Highway.

He gave me a good hearing, but reiterated the Government's decision would stand with the new limits to come into effect by the end of this year.

I repeated my opposition to this change and stressed I would continue to lobby him to reverse this decision and for the Government to continue to commit to improving our rural roads.

I'm opposing the change for several reasons, not the least being the considerable opposition I've received to the decision from my constituents in Frome.

In my view, road safety should be about a whole range of initiatives, not just solely about lowering the speed limit. This includes improvements in vehicle safety, better educating drivers about their need to drive to the road conditions and improving and maintaining our rural roads.

I've initiated improvements to several roads in my electorate over the past three and a half years, including the Port Pirie to Port Broughton road, the Bute to Kulpara Road and the Laura to Gladstone Road.

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I also instigated changes at identified problem areas including a right hand turn at Giles Corner and lighting on Highway One at the Snowtown and Redhill turnoff.

I believe common sense has to prevail. Country drivers need to travel longer distances to visit friends and relatives and to attend functions.

They are experienced in driving on regional roads and handling the different road, traffic and weather conditions.

As an Independent, I will continue to fight for what is best for people living in the Frome electorate. They've sent me a clear message on this issue and I agree with them.

I would hope local members in other electorates affected by these latest speed limit changes will also listen to what their communities are telling them about this issue."

Hon Geoff Brock MP
Independent Member for Frome