




**For the better**

4 September 2025

Commissioner of Road Safety  
Road Safety Commission  
PO Box 6348  
EAST PERTH WA 6892

Dear Commissioner,



### Support for the Perth Inner City Group's Safer Local Streets at 40km/h Project

I am writing to you to indicate RAC's support of the Perth Inner City Group initiative to implement a 40km/h speed limit within designated inner-city residential areas.

Tragically, from 2020-2024, 103 pedestrians and cyclists (including those on eRideables and motorised scooters) were killed and 1,090 were seriously injured on roads in Western Australia. To reduce road trauma, *Driving Change*, Western Australia's 2020-2030 road safety strategy, recognises that supporting and implementing speed reforms is a key priority. It also notes that lower speed limits in residential areas are an important part of making our neighbourhoods safer and more liveable. The State's Road Safety Strategy is predicated on speed reduction to achieve its targets and hence this opportunity to enable the Perth Inner City Group to introduce its proposal should sensibly be seized with both hands.

Our residential streets are places of activity, where children play, people walk their dogs or take a stroll, and where they connect. Outside of a car, these are our most vulnerable road users and the chances of them being fatally or seriously injured in a crash rapidly increases from around 30km/h. As a result, their fatality risk for being hit at 50km/h becomes approximately double that of being hit at 40km/h and approximately five times as great as being hit at 30km/h.

The proposed project aligns with our shared commitment to enhancing road safety, reducing road trauma, and improving the quality of life for residents, as well as those using roads and paths in Perth's inner city. There is clear evidence from various urban areas across that world that demonstrates lower speed limits significantly decreases the severity and frequency of crashes, creating safer environments for all road users.

This work follows an international trend to slow urban environments to increase liveability and alternate modes of transit, as we have seen here in Australia within the City of Vincent, parts of the City of Stirling and City of Fremantle, and also parts of Sydney and Melbourne. American Cities with slower urban inner-city precincts include Seattle, Minneapolis, and Portland, Oregon. European Cities include:

- Paris, who implemented a 30 km/h speed limit in most of the city in 2021, with exceptions for major thoroughfares.
- Brussels: Introduced a 30 km/h speed limit in 2021.
- Graz, Austria: A pioneer, implementing a general 30 km/h limit on most roads in 1992.
- Bologna, Italy: Adopted a 30 km/h limit in early 2024.

- London: Has 355km of roads with a 30km/h limit, up from 215km in 2022.

Most recently, new 40km/h speed limits have been implemented in South West WA on local streets in towns such as Cowaramup and Augusta as part of the Safer Speeds Trial, a partnership between the Shire of Augusta Margaret River and RAC, with support from Main Roads WA.

Independent evaluation of the City of Vincent's three-year 40km/h speed zone trial within its southern suburban residential areas showed positive outcomes, including majority community support, increases in walking and cycling and evidence of a reduction in vehicle traffic, speeds and crashes – the success resulting in the speed limit reduction becoming extended across the whole local government area.

We acknowledge the importance of the Safer Local Streets at 40km/h Project and believe that its successful implementation will serve as a vital step towards creating a safer, more sustainable, and better-connected Perth. With support, the Perth Inner City Group's proposal will provide a safer system for all road users, and particularly those most vulnerable. The initiative will deliver meaningful safety benefits and contribute positively to Perth's ongoing road safety and urban development goals.

Thank you for your consideration, and for your ongoing commitment to reduce road trauma in our wonderful state.

Yours sincerely,



Terry Durant  
**Group Executive, Social and Community Impact**