

Submission for NTC Consultation RIS - Developing technology-neutral road rules for driver distraction

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5 Jul 2019

I am fully aware of the rules governing use of phones whilst driving. The problem of driver distraction has always been with us and is nothing new. All of the advertising alongside of the road are all designed to draw our attention and distract us so someone can get a message to us whilst driving..I feel quite sure that many people over the years have fallen for those deliberate distractions and either up either injured or killed. No one says anything about that advertising. We just have to live with it. For many years CB radio users have not been able to hold a microphone whilst driving. Now it's mobile phones. Anyone either sending a text or reading a text whilst driving really need to be dealt with in the sternest way. Of course there is a conundrum when a member of the Police Force needs to use his phone in the line of duty. Here he can be in an extremely dangerous situation, even driving at high speed weaving through traffic and calling his station for whatever reason. One hand on the wheel, one hand on his phone or microphone, and focused enough to dial a number, control a car at speed through heavy traffic and focus on what he needs to say and listen too, all whilst checking his GPS for possible short cuts. I don't know who is worse. Isn't he somewhat distracted from his primary task. As Australians rather than ban something, are we better off learning to manage some new technology . When I was a kid , anti-roll bars, wide wheels, trafficators and all sorts of new technology were banned, only to come into general use when the Nanny State were ready for them. There are now mostly two anti-roll bars , alloy wheels that are 200mm wide instead of 100 mm wide. flashing turn signals,radial tyres etc, etc on all cars. When we were kids,if we had put wide wheels on our cars, we were told that the sky would fall . It hasn't yet!