



# RFSA

NSW Rural Fire Service Association  
Incorporated  
www.rfsa.org.au  
enquiries@rfsa.org.au  
ABN 65 291 969 153

PO Box 845, Penrith BC NSW 2751

Phone: (02) 4722 2122  
Fax: (02) 4722 2144

6 November 2017

Clr Stephen Lesslie  
Mayor  
City of Lithgow Council  
PO Box 19  
LITHGOW NSW 2790

Lithgow City Council  
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## 40 kilometre per hour speed limit at Emergency incidents

Dear Mayor,

I am writing to you as President of the NSW Rural Fire Service Association (RFSA), the representative Association of the 74,000 plus Volunteer fire fighters around the state, who are all integral to providing emergency response 24 hours a day 7 days a week across New South Wales.

As responders to emergency incidents our members face challenges from all kinds of potential hazards and approach them with a great deal of skill and experience through the training and competencies they maintain.

One of the most concerning safety factors our members (and other responders) are faced with at a variety of emergency incidents is road users, who fail to slow down and approach an emergency incident with due care and attention. In a situation where emergency service personnel are at a motor vehicle accident and working to extract or provide lifesaving first aid medical attention, there is no current legislated requirements on road users to slow down as they approach an incident.

In South Australia and Victoria steps have been taken to facilitate a safe speed limit when traveling past an emergency incident, i.e. when emergency lights are activated and an appliance is parked on a road.

The RFSA believes that the speed limit passing emergency incidents should be limited by legislation to 40 kilometres per hour in NSW. Implementing this will make work situations much safer for our volunteer and career personnel (from all emergency services) as they attend to the tasks of saving lives in and around our roads.

We are appealing to you to assist us in advocating change for the safety of the everyday men and women who volunteer their time to work together in keeping New South Wales safe and allow us to continue to provide the excellent emergency response in a safe environment.

**Supporting Our Members To Protect The Community**



**RFS**

Please encourage your Council to support the push for change and to make the speed limit at emergency incidents 40 kilometres per hour by writing to NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian, the Roads and Maritime Minister, the Hon. Melinda Pavey, your local State member and the RMS advocating for new legislation to protect all emergency service personnel.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Middleton".

**Ken Middleton**  
President

**Supporting Our Members To Protect The Community**