



## **POLICE ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

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# **PROTECT THE PROTECTORS – PUSH FOR ‘SLOW DOWN’ LAWS**

**PRESS RELEASE**

The Police Association of NSW (PANSW), is urging the NSW State Government to introduce new laws requiring drivers to slow down to 40km/h when passing emergency vehicles with flashing lights.

There is an urgent need for legislation following the recent incident at Leumeah where two NSW police officers were struck by a car while setting up a roadside RBT, both suffered horrific injuries as a result.

The PANSW supports calls from NSW Opposition Leader, Luke Foley MP for the government to immediately introduce Slow Down, Move Over laws to protect emergency responders on our roads.

Similar legislation has been introduced in other states enforcing the 40 kilometre per hour speed limits around the scene of roadside emergencies and when passing an emergency services vehicle with flashing lights.

In the United States, 50 of the 50 states abide and enforce Move Over Laws to make their roads safer.

Police Association President, Scott Weber, said “Governments in Western Australia, South Australia and Victoria have acted to protect the protectors and we are calling on this government to do the same.

“This state can't afford to wait and risk further tragedy. The Premier can protect police and all the State's emergency workers who risk their lives, when they work along our roads.

“They place themselves in danger because of the nature of their employment and the government should do everything it can to protect them. These are the people who are helping others in strife and saving lives only to be dragged into accidents themselves.

“This measure will also improve safety on NSW roads for all motorists and help prevent a lot of near misses. We have all seen drivers preoccupied with scenes at accident sites and not concentrating on what is in front of them.

“The PANSW have advocated at length with the government for long overdue change to address this safety issue.

“On behalf of all NSW Police Officers I'm urging the Premier to recognise the need to quickly introduce legislation to protect emergency workers.

“Drivers must also slow down to protect themselves, their families and the men and women who work to protect the people of NSW.”

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