

The General Manager
Driver and Vehicle Strategy
Roads and Traffic Authority
PO Box K198
Haymarket NSW 1240

Dear Sir/Madam

Reference is made to the RTA Licensing of Older Drivers Discussion Paper Dated July 2007

It is noted (ref:1) that the current assessment system is to be reviewed. Unfortunately there is concern that this could result in 'tough new regulations' which always results in urban life becoming more difficult and stressful.

Accordingly, this letter is submitted as full support of the existing arrangements for older drivers.

To have change there must be a reason and present RTA figures (ref:2) clearly indicate that the majority of older drivers have good driving records and NSW already has comparatively strict tests in this regard. (ref:3).

With respect to the forthcoming RTA review, the following comments are submitted for consideration.

Restricting drivers to a ten kilometre radius from home would be seen by many as demonising older people on the basis of age and would be likened to home detention for certain criminals. Unfortunately not all services or relatives are within this circle.

Of particular concern is the real possibility that older people will be forced onto the streets and public transport after dark.

Issues are – older people are 'soft' targets for street violence.

Public transport cannot always deliver people safely to the front door.

Inclement weather.

It has been stated in the media that mandatory annual medical tests would be dropped from eighty(80) years to seventy five(75), however people over seventy five are already entitled to a free medical test (Fed. Govt.). to introduce another test would be time consuming for the medical profession and costly to implement.

My observations are that the vast majority of mature age drivers follow the road rules and simply do not deserve to be targeted because of age. One does not see older drivers engaged in drag racing, doing donuts etc.

It would be greatly appreciated if this submission could receive consideration in the RTA review.

Yours faithfully,

Ref:1 Introduction, Final paragraph p2

Ref:2 Bar Chart, p5

Ref:3 Approaches in other jurisdictions, p3