

Wednesday 19 December 2018

ROAD SAFETY OPERATIONS - TOWARDS ZERO

NSW Police Force Statewide Operations for the holiday period commenced on Friday 14 December with Operation Towards Zero. As celebrations leading up to Christmas are underway and road users are travelling to holiday destinations police will be out in force to deter risky road behaviour.

Double demerit points are in force for Operation Safe Arrival from Friday 21 December to Tuesday 1 January inclusive. Police will be targeting road users putting themselves and others at risk with a high visibility presence around the clock.

Friday 21 December 2018 is a publicly notified school day therefore double demerit points will also apply to all relevant school zone offences committed on this day. On Friday 21 December drivers travelling over 60km/h in a school zone will be penalised 10 demerit points.

“I encourage everyone to take extra precautions on the road over the Christmas period,” said Sergeant Steve Mallam, Murrumbidgee Traffic and Highway Patrol Command Supervisor.

“New South Wales recorded a horror festive season on the roads last year with 34 lives claimed in the state over the short period. Driver fatigue, drink driving and driver distraction particularly from mobile phones continue to be a problem and contribute to crashes on our roads,” continued Sergeant Mallam.

“Currently the lives lost and serious injuries on NSW roads during 2018 are lower than at this time in 2017. Although in the South West region the fatalities are only one below last year,” stated Elizabeth Mudford, Road Safety Officer Narrandera Shire Council.

“It is important not to become complacent, 346 lives lost this year is still too many. We all need to be responsible when on the road. As well as complying with road rules in relation to speeding and drink driving it’s important to think about how tired you are before driving. Avoid fatigue by recognising the early warning signs and remember to stop, revive and survive.”

Operation Towards Zero resumes after New Year’s Day on Wednesday 2 January until Thursday 24 January when double demerits come into force again on Friday 25 January to Monday 28 January inclusive with Operation Safe Return. Over the Australia Day long weekend with many road users returning home from holidays police will be out in force with the aim of reducing road trauma.

NSW Police Assistant Commissioner Michael Corboy said the state’s drivers really needed to overcome the ‘it won’t happen to me’ mentality and instead drive to survive.

“Of course no driver deliberately sets off looking for a crash, but every time someone speeds, picks up their mobile phone, or drives tired or inhibited it increases the risk.”

MEDIA RELEASE

“People need to realise that the broader impact of road trauma goes beyond just the road toll - countless others are seriously, often permanently injured, families are torn apart and our first responders must carry with them the experience of these horrific scenes for the rest of their life.”

Double Demerits 21 December - 1 January



END

Precis or Summary: Road Safety Operations – Towards Zero details of double demerit periods and NSW police operations over the holiday period			
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Authorised By: George Cowan - General Manager	Media Contact: Communications Officer, Edwina Foley T (02) 6959 5502	Number of Pages	2
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