

29 July 2025

Road Safety Commissioner
Road Safety Commission
PO Box 6348
EAST PERTH WA 6892

Dear Commissioner Warner

Support for the Perth Inner City Group's 40km/h Slower Speeds Project

I understand you are currently considering the Perth Inner City Group's initiative to implement a safer and more liveable 40km/h speed limit within designated inner-city areas and am writing to express Healthway's support for this proposal.

Healthway can confirm the strong link between liveable environments, mental health and physical health. Liveable environments are those where people have access to safe and healthy streets that are not too noisy, the streets are easy to cross, and the air is clean¹⁻⁵. There are clear benefits from safer streets for both our physical and mental health, as well as preventing the traumatic loss of life on our streets.

There is also consistent evidence from multiple surveys of strong community support for safer and more liveable streets in Western Australia, with evidence from trials around the world showing that community support will grow further following implementation.⁶⁻¹¹ For example, a 2025 national survey⁶ found two in three (65%) Australians support reducing speed limits in neighbourhood streets to help create safer streets for people.

Most Australian jurisdictions, including in WA, have trialled safer speed streets¹². However, area-wide speed limits are a low-cost and effective measure for reducing road deaths and have a plethora of additional benefits to isolated streets with speed limits. Area-wide speed limits enhance road safety, reduce traffic crashes and improve quality of life for residents by providing safer access for walking and riding, and easier street crossing in Perth's inner city¹³.

A recent systematic review¹³ of safer area-wide speed limits across multiple countries found these extensive benefits for road safety, pollution, energy and liveability:

Road Safety

-45% ▼ Deaths
-30% ▼ Crashes
-43% ▼ Crashes involving
people walking

Pollution and Energy

-20% ▼ CO₂ emissions
-35% ▼ NO_x emissions
-20% ▼ PM emissions
-7% ▼ Petrol and other fuels

Liveability

-3.7dB ▼ Noise pollution
-16% ▼ Traffic volumes
No impact ➡ Travel time

There is an international trend towards safer speed limits in urban environments, aiming to increase liveability and increase access to alternate modes of transit. We have seen this across Australia^{12, 14} including within Perth's City of Vincent^{15, 16}, which introduced a local government-wide 40km/h speed limit.

International examples include:

- Paris (France) implemented a 30 km/h speed limit in most of the city in 2021, with exceptions for major thoroughfares¹⁷. Just months after the implementation of the new speed limits, a 40% decrease in serious and fatal crashes was achieved¹⁸ and noise pollution went down 3dB¹⁸. Outcomes for the city's air quality, public spaces and liveability have all been positive^{18, 19}.
- Wales introduced a country-wide default speed limit of 20mph (32km/h limit), with exceptions made to the default²⁰. The average speed has reduced following the speed limit change^{20, 21}, leading to more than 100 people not being killed or seriously injured, in the first year of implementation^{21, 22}. The cost of car insurance also decreased by about £50 annually (equivalent to around AUD\$100)²³ and journey time reliability has improved, with only small changes in average journey times²¹.
- It is estimated that 30 million people in the United Kingdom now live in areas with safer speed limits of 20mph (32km/h)²⁴. London has 355km of roads with a 20mph (32km/h limit), up from 215km in 2022²⁵, leading to 34% fewer people being killed or seriously injured by drivers²⁶.

Healthway strongly supports the Perth Inner City Group's initiative and believes its successful implementation will serve as a vital step towards creating a more liveable, accessible and safer Perth.

Thank you for your leadership and support in making Perth streets safer and more liveable for people living in and visiting Western Australia.

Yours sincerely



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About Healthway

Healthway is the only State Government agency solely dedicated to health promotion efforts in Western Australia. We work across systems to create healthy environments, motivate behaviour change and influence policy to reduce and eliminate barriers to good health.

Healthway is about creating healthy environments to support our community to make better informed choices about health and leading a healthy lifestyle, reducing the need for hospital and clinical care. We do this through health promotion campaigns and education, grants and partnerships with sports, arts, racing and community organisations, research, and advocating for policy and systems change across government and non-government organisations.

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