

No case for an 80 km/h speed limit - Review of the SA Rural Travelling Speed and Crash Involvement Study

John McK Lambert John Lambert and Associates Pty Ltd

Topic Field: Speeding

The Travelling Speed and the Risk of Crash Involvement on Rural Roads” research report of July 2001 found that “that 24 per cent of all the casualty crashes investigated would have been avoided if none of the vehicles had been travelling above the speed limit and that lowering the maximum speed limit on undivided roads to 80 km/h could be expected to lower casualty crash frequency by 32 per cent. This paper reviews the analysis methodology in the original report and in particular considers the impact of black spots and black links on the findings of the report. And it raises the issue of the balance between safety and amenity.

Limitation of study: This study is a desktop study that is limited to re-analysis of the original data and exploration of apparent anomalies in that data

What’s new in this paper: It shows that the original analysis is flawed in respect of its findings.

Status of paper: At the time of the conference it will be a completed project