



AUSTRALIAN DRIVERS RIGHTS ASSOCIATION INC.

Regional Western Australia and the Safety Warning System

Australian Drivers Rights Association Background

- The Australian Drivers Rights Association is a non-profit association and was formed in 1998. It has over 10,000 members and has the primary aim of highlighting the issues affecting drivers' rights and road safety concerns.

Context

- Western Australia has a number of high accident areas in regional and country areas. Specifically these areas are in excess of 100km outside country towns and within 6 hours of Perth. For geographical reasons it is difficult for the Western Australian Police to continually monitor these areas.

Safety Warning Systems

- The Safety Warning System is an inexpensive (less than \$1,000) radar-emitting device that warns drivers of potential hazards, accidents and workers on the road.
- The System is small, robust, easy to install and begins working immediately. The Safety Warning System transmitter has a range of over 1km and uses a low powered 12-volt power supply. It is low maintenance and needs no supervision.
- The Safety Warning System utilises driver-warning systems or radar detectors as safety warning receivers by emitting one of 64 road hazard alerts such as "Warning accident ahead," "Warning highway road crew ahead," or "Warning emergency vehicle in transit" - a list of warning messages is attached in Appendix A.
- Receivers are activated up to a 1km away with a voice warning and LED display. These messages continue while they are in range of the Safety Warning System.
- All modern driver-warning systems are capable of receiving Safety Warning System alerts. There are around 60,000 such driver-warning systems already in use in Western Australia.
- The effectiveness of the Safety Warning System to slow drivers is supported by numerous studies overseas that have been undertaken on drone radar and the Safety Warning System.
- Studies have found that mean speeds were reduced by 4 to 6 km/hr using drone radar alone and 6 to 8 km/hr using radar and digital display signs carrying road safety warnings.



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- These tests were undertaken in some areas with a lower density of driver warning systems than in Western Australia.
- The same research also found that the users actually slowed the flow of traffic behind them.
- The Safety Warning System has gained substantial support in the US where the Federal Government has invested USD\$2.1 million for its expansion and implementation.
- Other parts of the world, including New Zealand are utilising this intelligent transport system. With widespread use we believe that it would only be a matter of time before vehicles come equipped with built in safety warning receivers.
- Safety Warning System transmitters are licensed for use in Australia under ACA Class License 2000.

The Safety Warning System in Western Australia

- Initial trialing of the Safety Warning System began in Western Australia in 2002.
- There are now more than 30 Safety Warning Systems being used in Western Australia to protect thousands of “at risk” workers and drivers.
- There has been a strong acceptance by Unions, workers and drivers of the Safety Warning System, and its implementation and use is continuing to expand.
- Safety Warning System transmitters are being utilised in Western Australia by emergency vehicles, roadwork vehicles, by traffic management crews on construction zones and by Tow Truck Drivers.
- It is estimated that around 60,000 driver-warning systems or radar detectors are in use by drivers in WA.
- Construction worksites are utilising the Safety Warning System transmitters on work sites deemed to be a road safety hazard or to present a traffic hazard to workers.
- The expansion of the number of units in Western Australia indicates strong acceptance of the Safety Warning System in protecting those workers most at risk on the roads. The unions and work safety officers are advocating the use of the SWS in WA and around Australia.
- The Australian Drivers Rights Association is liaising with Worksafe authorities in identifying other areas where the Safety Warning System can provide protection in the workplace.



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- Using the Safety Warning System to target regional drivers in black spot areas is a direct, innovative and cost effective approach to delivering the road safety message.
- The Safety Warning System has already been independently tested and proven to slow the flow of traffic in road hazard areas by up to 8 km/hr. We envisage that the Safety Warning System will assist in slowing the speed of drivers in regional black spots as well, and help to save more lives.
- A dual message transmitter can also be used to deliver a selectable message reminding the driver to rest, revive and survive. The message could alert the driver to a "Rest Area Ahead" - the Safety Warning System is small and transportable and can be easily relocated to any location.
- The Australian Drivers Rights Association is committed to the effective utilization of proven road safety technology that is well accepted by our members and other road users.

Australian Drivers Rights Association – Safety Warning System offer

- The Australian Drivers Rights Association would be pleased to donate 20 Safety Warning Systems to the Western Australia Police in an effort to target regional black spots.
- The Safety Warning System can be programmed to deliver two selectable road safety messages to drivers with a driver warning system.
- The Safety Warning System can operate using solar panels as a power source to eliminate the need for personnel to be directly involved in monitoring the equipment.
- The Western Australia Police are under no obligation to endorse the product or are not subject to any obligations or constraints in accepting this proposal.
- The Safety Campaign can be implemented within approximately 8 weeks of acceptance.