

13 December 2023

Mayoral Message

Dear Residents



Will you be another road statistic this holiday season?

Hardly a day goes by over the Christmas and New Year period without hearing about an innocent victim who has lost their life or been badly injured in a road-related incident. And it comes as no surprise that in most cases, speeding is the main contributor.

With just two weeks remaining until the end of the year, the road toll stands at 331 lives lost across the country – 69 more than for the same period last year.

And if those statistics are not telling, the number of people who were seriously injured and required hospitalisation climbed to nearly 10,000. The horrible truth is that, despite these horrifying statistics, we continue to speed.

That's why I have written to the NSW Premier to urgently review policies and strategies to tackle the alarming number of deaths and driving behaviours of young people.

I also called on him to introduce tougher penalties like a zero-alcohol tolerance, reduce the number of demerit points before loss of licence and increase police patrols and visibility.

It is unfortunate that extreme measures such as these may be necessary to keep us safe on the road, but I am willing to do whatever it takes to keep our community safe.

I recently met with 22-year-old Tahlia Mardini, who survived a horrific crash which killed her best friend and left her with life-long brain injuries.

It was New Year's Day 2018 when a split-second decision to get in a car with someone she just met changed her life forever, with the driver losing control at high speed.

Tahlia's message to me was quite clear: "it's cool to speak up and challenge reckless driving, and for young people to remember that they are not invincible."

This holiday season, as you spend time with your family, I encourage you all to take care on the road and not become another statistic.

Let's all have a happy end of year and return home safely to our families.

Regards



Clr Bilal El-Hayek
MAYOR

Contact me at: **P 9707 9522 E Mayor@cbc.city.nsw.gov.au**

f [@MayorBilalElHayek](#) i [@Bilal.ElHayek](#) X [@ClrBilalElHayek](#)