Pedestrian Safety in Car Parks

July 2009
Submission to the Parliamentary Road Safety Committee Inquiry
Current Regulatory Framework

- Car parks are “Road-Related Areas” as per the Road Rules Victoria, and are included in the definition of “Highway” under the Road Safety Act.

- Therefore, in the absence of a specific intention stated in a particular road rule, the Road Rules apply to car parks.

- The provisions of the Road Safety Act (whether they apply “anywhere” or only on Highways) and the Crimes Act regarding motor vehicles apply to car parks.
Regulating Drivers & Pedestrians

- Drivers - regulated through legislation & engineering underpinned by education and advisory or Regulatory Signs.

- Pedestrians – regulated through engineering solutions underpinned by education and advisory Signs.
  - While there are some relatively unfamiliar laws that apply to pedestrians in carparks, certain commonly understood pedestrian Road Rules do not apply in car parks.
Fatality Statistical Guidelines

Australian Transport Safety Bureau (Pre 1983)

ROAD means the entire way devoted to public travel where that way is in a surveyed road reserve. It means the entire width between abutting property boundaries where the way is open to the public for travel purposes as a matter of right or custom.

EXCLUDING (amongst other criteria)
• off-road parking area (i.e. outside surveyed road reserve)

Road crashes which take place entirely outside the road reserve are generally excluded from national statistics.
Traffic Incident System (TIS)
Victoria Police – The Basics

- Responsibility for the delivery of frontline policing services
- The determination of Road Policing priorities and effort
  - Tasking & Co-Ordination
- Intelligence
- Shifting expectations of police enforcement
Arrive alive......

- **Drugs**
- **Alcohol**
- **Fatigue**
- **Distraction**
- **Speed**
Arrive alive……

- Drugs
- Alcohol
- Fatigue
- Distraction
- Speed
- Maintenance
Drivers/riders and pedestrians - require different strategies
Enforcement Issues

• Police regularly patrol car parks to deter and detect offenders for thefts from motor cars, thefts of motor cars, unregistered vehicles etc;

• In matters of speeding, practical difficulties due to physical features of car parks make detecting exact speeds difficult;
Carpark Enforcement

General enforcement could detect the following offences:

- Impoundment (*loss of traction*)
- Reverse when Unsafe
- Mobile Phone
- Speed/Manner Dangerous/Careless Driving
- Fail to Indicate
- Exceed PCA
Countermeasures

Generally,
• Low incidence, Low severity

Road System + Road Users Generally Regulated

Carparks – generally unregulated movement

The Three E’s
Education
Engineering
Enforcement
End of Presentation

Questions