
MEDIA RELEASE



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FLASHING LIGHTS COST CLAIMS INCORRECT

The RTA has refuted claims by Peter Olsen that reliable flashing lights can be installed and maintained safely at schools for \$1000.

“Mr Olsen has good intentions, but he is misinforming the public when he claims that effective flashing light systems can be provided in school zones for \$1000,” a spokesperson said.

“Mr Olsen’s cost estimate of less than \$1000 for the devices does not include any costs associated with the installation, including cabling for electricity.”

“The cost of installing Mr Olsen’s lights averages around \$13,000 per zone when connection to the mains power supply is taken into account.

The spokesperson said the State Government announced in 2007 that it would rollout flashing lights to 100 school zones a year over four years at a cost of \$46.5 million.

“Mr Olsen’s claim that the RTA’s system costs \$58,000 to install is incorrect. The cost varies between \$10,000 and \$13,000 depending on the work involved at each individual site.

“The remainder of the funding is used for the set up and installation of the central computer system, ongoing maintenance of the signs and the central server, site surveying, design and other ongoing costs.

“Mr Olsen hasn’t included any of these items in his costings.

“Unlike RTA’s flashing light technology, Mr Olsen’s flashing lights are not connected to a central system which controls the timing and operation of lights and alerts the RTA to any problems immediately.

“This centrally controlled system is essential to ensure our children remain safe as drivers slow down during the times when students are arriving and leaving school.

“Mr Olsen’s signs have to be operated and serviced manually; which means a fault could go unnoticed, putting the lives of our most vulnerable at risk.

“While the RTA welcomes Mr Olsen’s intentions, we cannot install potentially unsafe, unreliable and infrequently monitored systems when it is our children we are trying to protect.

“Children are unpredictable and the addition of effective flashing lights in school zones where traffic volumes are high is a priority.”

The spokesperson said the RTA had advertised for tenders for its design, maintenance and servicing of flashing lights on four separate occasions and Mr Olsen had not offered a proposal at any stage.

“To date more than 260 school zones have flashing lights and this number will grow by another 100 zones this year.”

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