



BRAD HAZZARD MP

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SHADOW MINISTER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE
SHADOW MINISTER FOR REDFERN WATERLOO
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MEDIA RELEASE

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DRIVERS' CHALLENGE – GET OUT OF THE WAY!

Brad Hazzard today called on Northern Beaches residents to ensure emergency vehicles get to their emergencies quicker than any other area in Sydney.

“Fire engines, ambulances and police vehicles with flashing lights must get a clear run to emergencies and it’s time local residents stick to the rules and get out of the way!” said Brad Hazzard today.

“The Peninsula has become just as bad as the rest of Sydney when it comes to failing to give emergency vehicles a fair go.

“The law is clear – *‘when you hear a siren or see the flashing blue or red lights of an emergency vehicle (eg police, fire brigade or ambulance vehicle) you must give way. This means get out of the way so that the emergency vehicle has a clear passage through traffic. Generally, if you hear a siren or see the flashing lights pull over to the left until the emergency vehicles passes’* (RTA Road Users Handbook).

“I have seen ambulances and fire engines often caught in traffic or having to cross to the wrong side of the road.

“These are often life or death situations and drivers need to consider a local resident, possibly even a relative or friend, will suffer as a result of them failing to get out of the way.

“The situation appears to be worsening in recent years and in the last few months I have seen emergency vehicles blocked far too often.

“Whether it’s increased traffic levels, stereos too loud, windows wound up – drivers have an obligation to abide by the rules – particularly life saving rules.

“But the Peninsula has a record of caring for its own – my challenge to my fellow residents is to get back to the basics of letting emergency workers get to emergencies faster than other parts of Sydney.

“Flashing red or blue lights – simple message – Get Out Of The Way!” said Mr Hazzard.