

50 kph has been the Urban Speed Limit in all built-up areas in NSW since November 2003.

Many drivers are doing the right thing and travelling at or below 50 kph in residential streets. Unfortunately, Council tests show some drivers travel in excess of 60 kph in many residential streets.



Why is 50 kph the limit? Why not 60 kph?

The faster you go, the longer it takes to stop and the more damage you do in a crash, particularly to children and the elderly

Crash statistics show that when struck by a vehicle travelling at 60 kph, only 15% of children have survived. When struck by a vehicle travelling at 50 kph, 55% of children have survived.

So, the slower you go the less likely you are to kill a child if they run, walk or stumble in front of your vehicle. This is important for elderly pedestrians as well. They often need more time to cross the road so travelling at or below 50 kph helps them cross safely.



In some residential streets it is smart to travel even slower than the 50 kph speed limit because your vision of the footpath and driveways is hidden behind trees, garbage bins and parked vehicles.

Speed = Distance = Time

The laws of physics say that the faster you go, the further you travel while you decide what to do in an emergency. For example, when a pedestrian steps from behind a shrub or garbage bin or parked car, from the time you see them it will take you about a second to lift your foot off the accelerator.

In that one second, at 50 kph you will travel 13.9 metres and you are still doing 50 kph. At 60 kph you will travel 16.7 metres and still be doing 60 kph. And that's only if you are alert and concentrating on driving. And you still have to stop!



At 50 kph, once you are on the brakes it will take another 11 metres to stop. That is a total of 25 metres to stop from 50 kph once you see the person. If you were travelling at 60 kph, from the time you see the person it will take you a total of 32 metres to stop. And if you skid or your tyres and brakes are worn it will take even longer to stop. These times and distances apply to all drivers and riders and all vehicles on normal roads.

The slower you go the more time you have to see the pedestrian and then stop.

Pay attention to what pedestrians are doing on the footpath, especially children. If you are distracted by something in the car you may not even see a small child before you run over them.

You can stop in time only if:

- You are concentrating on driving.
- You can see the pedestrian.
- You are driving slow.
- You remain calm and don't skid.

1. **Stay alert. Expect pedestrians and other vehicles to do unusual things.**
2. **Drive slowly. Give yourself more time to see what's happening and stop.**
3. **Scan the footpath, driveways and cross streets and be ready to brake.**

**Speed limit in residential areas is
50 KPH**