

# Speeding on the Gold Coast

**How fast is fast enough to kill? Most people are surprised to learn that driving even a couple of kilometres over the speed limit can have devastating consequences. Speeding is a major factor in serious and fatal injury crashes on the Gold Coast.**

Speeding is not just driving faster than the posted speed limit. It is also driving too fast for the prevailing weather, light, traffic and road conditions without full regard for the vehicle's condition and driver's skills and experience.

## Tips to avoid speeding:

- Regularly check your speed – most crashes happen at less than 10 kilometres over the speed limit.
- To increase your stopping distance, slow down when the weather, traffic or road conditions are poor.
- When travelling at higher speed, increase your following distance by two to four seconds to ensure your braking distance and avoid a rear-end collision.
- When slowing from a higher speed, check your speedometer; it can be hard to accurately judge speed after travelling at a high speed for a period of time.
- If speeding is a constant problem in your street, you should contact your local police station. The Queensland Police Service has a traffic complaints database that helps them make informed decisions about enforcement.

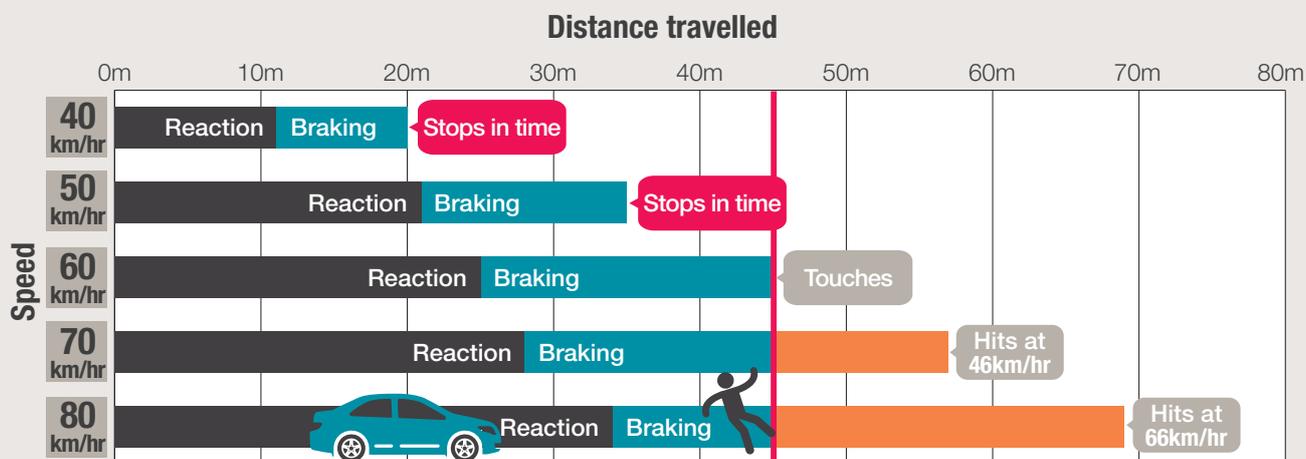


## Drive Safe community speed awareness initiative

Drive Safe is a key community speed awareness initiative of the Gold Coast Road Safety Plan 2015-2020. It aims to create a safer road transport future by focusing on the individual and shared responsibilities of all road users. As part of Drive Safe, portable speed awareness devices the City of Gold Coast temporarily installs at locations across the city where speeding has been an issue.

The presence of these devices on local streets has been shown to achieve significant reductions in vehicle speeds. Road safety is everyone's responsibility and these digital devices are just one way the City is encouraging drivers to slow down and drive safely.

### Vehicle speed and stopping distance



Even in dry conditions, the combination of reaction time and the braking distance means that your vehicle will travel a long way before stopping.

# Road safety statistics

## Know the Facts

### Speeding will save you very little time

On most trips, speeding will save you very little time. For example, on a 10 kilometre journey, you would only save 46 seconds by increasing your average speed from 60km/h to 65km/h. When travelling faster, you use more fuel and your vehicle emits more of the gases that contribute to air pollution. In fact, keeping to the speed limit may actually help with reducing traffic congestion by improving the smoothness of traffic flow through reductions in speed variation and improved distance between cars.<sup>2</sup>

### Speeding is dangerous

There is simply no question of whether speeding is dangerous. It is a well-researched fact. Driving at any speed above the posted speed limit is dangerous and illegal. In fact, around half of all serious speed-related crashes happen at just 10km/h or less above the speed limit. Evidence shows that if you:

- travel at 5km/h over the speed limit in a 60km/h zone, you're twice as likely to have a serious crash
- travel at 10km/h over in a 60km/h zone, you're four times as likely to have a serious crash
- travel at 20km/h over in a 60km/h zone, you're 32 times as likely to have a serious crash
- travel 10km/h faster than the average speed of other traffic, you're twice as likely to have a serious crash.
- Speed just over 5km/h above the speed limit in urban areas, and 10km/h above the speed limit in rural areas, are sufficient to double the risk of a casualty crash. This is roughly equivalent to the increase in risk associated with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.05.<sup>1</sup>

### Determining the speed limit

The Department of Transport and Main Roads, together with local governments, determines speed limits after careful consideration of a number of safety factors including:

- the number and configuration of traffic lanes
- housing density and type of development
- the amount of on-road parking
- access to property arrangements
- traffic signals
- crash patterns that have occurred

Individual speed limits are frequently reviewed. A speed limit may be changed, and lowered, on a dangerous section of road if it is believed it will help reduce the number of crashes in the area.

1. Australian Transport Council. (2008). National Road Safety Action Plan 2009-2010.
2. CARRS-Q. State of the Road: Speeding Fact Sheet, 2013.

**For further information** and resources on the impact of speeding on road safety and the Queensland Road Rules, please visit [jointhethrive.qld.gov.au/on-the-road/speeding](http://jointhethrive.qld.gov.au/on-the-road/speeding)

**Speeding is one of the major killers on our roads.**

**5 year target**

Reduce fatalities and serious injuries on the **Gold Coast** transport system by at least **30%**.

In the past five years, **half** of all transport fatalities and hospitalisations occurred on **Gold Coast** roads with 60 kilometre per hour posted speed limits.

**33%** of fatalities involve excessive speed as a contributory factor.



### Gold Coast Road Safety Plan 2015–2020

Road safety is a community issue and our Road Safety Plan nominates actions and responsibilities for everyone; including road authorities, transport user advocates, law enforcement and the general public.

Our vision is to reduce crashes, save lives and prevent serious trauma on the Gold Coast transport network.

### For more information

**P** 1300 GOLDCOAST (1300 465 326)

**W** [goldcoast.qld.gov.au/roadsafety](http://goldcoast.qld.gov.au/roadsafety)

Crash data statistics are based on results presented in the Gold Coast Road Safety Plan 2015–2020. The crash data statistics are based on the Queensland Road Crash Database\* using a 5 year reporting period between 2008 and 2012.

\*State of Queensland. 2014. Crash Data from Queensland Roads (online). Available at [data.qld.gov.au/dataset/crash-data-from-queensland-roads](http://data.qld.gov.au/dataset/crash-data-from-queensland-roads) (Accessed 15/1/2014)

