



# **Hon Michael Gallacher MLC**

Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council  
Minister for Police and Emergency Services  
Minister for the Hunter

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Thursday 9 June 2011

### **ZERO TEMPERATURES AND ZERO FATALITIES: MINISTER LAUNCHES SNOWSAFE**

NSW Minister for Police and Emergency Services Michael Gallacher has today joined police urging motorists to ensure a fatality free 2011 ski season.

Police in the NSW Alpine Region are hoping history will repeat itself this year with zero fatal accidents on the roads throughout the ski period.

“Road safety is everyone’s business and police will be maintaining a high profile on the roads to and from the ski slopes,” Minister Gallacher said.

“Police will have a high profile right across the season which will include random breath and drug testing as well as speed enforcement.

“To come away with a fatality free ski season is something that everyone involved in policing and road safety, including myself as minister, wants to see repeated.

“We are going to do everything we can to make sure that drivers who insist on travelling to and from the snowfields under the influence of drugs and or alcohol or above the speed limit are caught,” Minister Gallacher said.

Snowsafes starts at midnight Friday June 10 and will run through to the end of the October long weekend.

The campaign will focus on speeding and impaired drivers and will highlight the importance of taking regular rest breaks during the drive to or from the Alpine region.

“Driving while you are tired is a serious problem and this is often made worse when people who have been skiing or working all day combine driving with alcohol consumption, speed and general irresponsible road behaviour,” Minister Gallacher said.

“Motorists need to remember that their vehicle is a deadly weapon when it is used in conjunction with irresponsible road behaviour.

“I am urging all motorists who are planning a trip to the snow to make sure that their vehicle is in a road worthy condition and carry snow chains if required. Motorists also need to remember that they should drive to the conditions of the road and not rush to get to their destination.

“We can assure the community that police will patrol all the roads leading to the snowfields and irresponsible driver behaviour will simply not be tolerated,” Minister Gallacher said.

An analysis of all crashes during the previous snow season has revealed that the majority of accidents occurred between 3am and midday on a Wednesday and midday and 3pm on a Saturday.

“Accidents can happen at anytime and anywhere. It’s up to motorists to ensure they use the road and their car in a manner that doesn’t put themselves or other road users lives at risk,” Minister Gallacher concluded.

ENDS

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