

**■ Gabrielle Knowles**  
Chief Crime Reporter

The State Government needs to stop apologising for enforcing speed limits and introduce a demerit point penalty for drivers who flout the laws by even 1km/h, says a leading road safety adviser.

As fresh Department of Transport figures revealed that by mid-September 12,639 motorists had received driving bans

a demerit-penalty — rather than just a fine — for speeding less than 10km/h over the limit.

The Monash University Accident Research Centre professor said the demerit system encouraged motorists to change their behaviour because they feared losing their licences.

But the system was less effective in WA because it was the only State without a demerit penalty for low-level speeding, he warned.

because they can afford to pay the fines and they're not threatened with losing their licence by accumulating demerit points," Professor Cameron said.

At least 35 per cent of WA's more than 1.9 million registered drivers, including P-plate and learners, have demerit points, which take three years to clear.

By mid-September, 5708 people were waiting for a suspension notice after accruing

just one point.

Last year, 19,072 motorists, including 3285 novice drivers, were issued demerit point suspensions.

The State Government has not changed its position from when it ignored Road Safety Council advice to include a demerit penalty for low-level speeding during a review last year.

Road Safety Minister Liza Harvey said then that low-level speeding was not linked to the

conviction it warranted penalty despite the most common offence, it was "al

Professor Cameron with no demerit point, it was "al the de facto spe 10km/h above the p

"That's not a mess authorities want to he said.

"It's time all Aust: stop apologising for speed limits — the crimes."

## Dancers out to fly flag for WA

**■ Stephen Bevis**

To the list of the Perth Wildcats, Perth Glory, Western Warriors, the Dockers, Eagles, West Coast Fever and Western Force, add the name Co3 — the WA Contemporary Dance Company.

WA is well represented on the sporting field and in the performing arts with a State symphony orchestra, opera, ballet and theatre company.

But it has been the only State without its own flagship contemporary dance company for nearly 20 years.

"It takes a number of different voices to make a community," Co3 artistic director Raewyn Hill said during a rehearsal break in an airy, sunlit dance studio in the King Street Arts Centre.

Co3 was building on the strong independent dance scene in Perth and would represent the State with pride, Hill said.

"We are laying the foundation for a company that will remain in the community in perpetuity," she said.

Anticipation has been



Laying foundations: Co3 Australia artistic director Raewyn Hill with the company's dancers at the King Street Arts Centre. Picture: Danella Bevis

building among dance lovers ahead of Co3's debut on the main stage of the State Theatre Centre tonight after seven years of planning, development and fundraising.

"I think it is a real moment in time for WA culturally," Hill said. "It feels like there has been a great celebration about the company and

there has been a lot of goodwill."

Co3's nine dancers were put through an intense three-month pre-season training program to build their strength and conditioning before rehearsals began five weeks ago for the first production, Re:Loaded 2015.

The dancers could only work with Co3 part-time due to budget restraints and balanced their dancing life with other work that ranged from teaching yoga to building boat trailers, Hill said.

Re:Loaded 2015 is at the State Theatre Centre's Heath Ledger Theatre from tonight until Sunday.

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## Aussies have some of the world's longest work weeks

**■ Shane Wright**

Australians put in some of the longest working weeks in the world, with one in five doing at least 45 hours.

Australian Bureau of Statistics figures show more than 2 per cent, or 250,000

people, work at least 70 hours a week.

Another 400,000 do between 60 and 69 hours, or at least 12 hours a day over a five-day working week.

Miners have the longest working weeks in the nation, with more than a

quarter doing 60 to 69 hours and 17 per cent putting in more than 70 hours. Far fewer miners work less than 40 hours a week — just 11 per cent of the workforce.

After miners, workers in the agricultural and fishing industries put in some of the

longest work days, with more than a third on the job at least 60 hours a week.

Retail, accommodation, education and health have the most part-time workers.

Of 1.2 million people in retail, about 45 per cent do fewer than 29 hours a week.

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