

Melanie Gray speeds up the charts with new single, Drive Slow

Growing up in the Northern Territory, Melanie Gray approaches life at a different speed to many others, and this flows through her new single, Drive Slow.

However, the single, released today, Monday, September 16, has sped up the iTunes charts to debut at No. 4 on the Country Songs Chart and a very healthy No. 34 on the All Genres Songs Chart.



With an outback roadtrip playlist that includes all the favourites from artists include Keith Urban, Graeme Connors, Lee Kernaghan, Troy Cassar-Daley, John Williamson, Sara Storer, and Brooks & Dunn, Melanie is now adding her own touch with Drive Slow, that is sure to feature on many playlists around Australia.

“Everyone’s got their favourite list of songs they love listening to on roadtrips, and I wanted to write my own roadtrip song,” she said.

“I took the ideas to Gina Jeffreys and Max Jackson, and we wrote the song together. I had worked with Gina and Max before and I love how everything stays my ideas with them, but their writing style has really helped me to use colours and imagery better. The

three of us have come up with an album’s worth of songs – this is the seventh one I’ve been able to get out there.”

Being heavily influenced by the NT, Drive Slow has a summery, laidback feel that will bring warmth to listeners no matter in which season they’re listening.

“I hope it can get on people’s playlists and stay there and they can play it all year round to bring them a bit of summer,” Melanie said.

“With all of my songs, I want people to feel proud of the place they live, and enjoy and appreciate all the surroundings they have outside their front door. I want to be promoting positive things through my music.”

The related film clip, shot by Duncan Toombs from The Filmery, is a chance for the proud Darwin resident to showcase what the Territory has to offer.

“I want to do my bit for Territory Tourism, with the film clip and put the territory in a new light without doing it overtly,” Melanie said.

“I’m a cheerleader for the Territory and I want people to wonder where that place is and to want to come visit.”

As well as being the perfect roadtrip song, the singer-songwriter has a more serious message to spread.

“The song is also about taking your relationship slow,” Melanie said.

“Even just dating people in this day and age comes with certain conventions you’re supposed to follow. We live in a world where everyone wants everything right now and has access to whatever they want over apps. It’s hard enough navigating it all as adult let alone the pressures often felt by teenagers to be liked and accepted. The song is about stepping out of the formalities of best behaviours, dinner dates and hook-ups to taking your time to get to know someone within a healthy comfort zone – why not take off on an amazing adventure together and explore the great outdoors?”

Drive Slow was produced by musical maestro, Rod McCormack and mastered by Rod and Jeff McCormack. Rod also played all the instruments on the track.

Melanie has welcomed more accolades recently, having been shortlisted in the Australian Songwriting Competition in the Australia and Country categories.

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