

**Submission
No 13**

MOBILE SPEED CAMERA ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS IN NSW

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I have been driving for 36 years.

Never before have I had a mobile speed camera fine, then suddenly I got two in a single month - both less than 10 km/h over the limit.

I am a shift worker. When I drive to work the roads are often empty as most people are still in bed. There are no pedestrians on the footpaths and most traffic lights are green.

I drive according to the conditions at the time, reducing speed when risk increases such as wet weather, poor visibility, and traffic.

Sometimes gravity will raise my speed when descending a hill, and sometimes my speed will decrease when going up the hill.

Am I expected to keep my gaze on my speedometer more than the objects in my path?

Obviously, it is far safer to keep my eyes on the road outside the vehicle, than be distracted by looking at things within the vehicle - for example a mobile phone or a speedometer.

As mentioned above, when I was "caught", my speed was less than 10 km/h.

Had there been a mobile camera warning sign before the actual camera vehicle, it would have triggered an automatic response to check my speed, and adjust appropriately.

I was watching where I was going, not the speedometer.

I consider myself a safe driver - reflected by my gold coloured NSW licence and my maximum no claim insurance bonus. Exceeding the speed limit by less than 10 km/h at a time when the road is empty is hardly life threatening to myself or others.

Deploying mobile speed cameras at times when only shift workers are about and setting the cameras to trigger at less than 10 km/h over the limit is just revenue raising.

The data proves this point. No reduction in deaths compared to the same period last year, but 15 times more revenue raised. Obviously just a cash grab as no lives have been saved.

Furthermore, the tactics of the mobile speed camera operators are questionable.

Squeezing in between parked cars to hide their vehicle, which is easily recognisable by alert drivers.

Is it the alert drivers you are trying to catch or the drivers not concentrating on what is in their path?

I have no objection to mobile speed cameras in general. They have their place in speed enforcement, provided they are used responsibly.

Set them to only trigger at speeds in excess of 15 km/h, to eliminate the affects of gravity and speed "creep". Don't hide behind bushes or other vehicles, keep them in visible locations so alert drivers have a chance to check their speed and adjust if necessary. Use the warning signs.

Like I said I have no objection to mobile speed cameras in general. However I do object to the dodgy tactics used by the operators, and fining drivers for less than 10 km/h over the limit.

Mobile speed cameras cannot catch drunk drivers.

Mobile speed cameras cannot catch drivers on drugs.

Mobile speed cameras cannot catch aggressive tailgaters, unlicensed drivers, or those doing burnouts in residential streets.

I would prefer my tax dollars to be spent on more police patrol cars, especially unmarked cars, as they would be far more effective at making the roads safer.

Obviously they would be more costly to the NSW government to manage, and it seems that is why the NSW government has chosen cameras over humans - money is more important than safety.

Mobile speed cameras - nothing more than revenue raising for the NSW government.