Submission No 18

Mobile speed camera enforcement programs in NSW

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit to this enquiry.

Living in rural NSW I feel the impact of having my licence suspended affects me, and other rural residents, to a much greater degree than residents in cities. Local public transport options are extremely limited or non existent, distances are far greater, ruling out cycling and other transport methods, with more time needed to be spent driving, and the consequences of losing my licence would be catastrophic for myself and my family, including losing my employment, possibly my house, great difficulty in transporting children to school (a 2hr bus trip each way) and such. The completely ruthless introduction of hidden mobile speed cameras has increased the possibility of this occurring 10 fold, and the unrealistic expectation that members of the public are somehow able to monitor every action as they drive is something that needs to be explored outside of punitive measures. I've had this conversation multiple times with people, the whole "if you don't speed you won't get caught " suggestion is often repeated. I respond with the speed limit changes on a 20 minute drive from my house to the next town 20 minutes away, being 50, 100, 80, 50, 40, 50, 100, 80, 100, 80, 40, 80, 40, 60, 50, and this is a drive of which 70% is at 100km/h. I feel the government is trying to fine people for the very human inability to focus on an environment that is constantly changing, suggesting that somehow the tens of thousands of people that have recently been fined are somehow driving maliciously and without due care, a suggestion I refute completely.