

**Submission
No 39**

MOBILE SPEED CAMERA ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS IN NSW

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Date Received: 28 May 2021

I am opposed to the recent changes to mobile speed cameras. I fear that we are sacrificing visible deterrence in exchange for revenue. I note ample media coverage regarding the dramatic increase in fines since the most recent changes.

From a simple logic point of view a speeding driver (whether deliberate or inattentive) will not amend their behaviour during their trip by sending them a fine weeks later when they don't even recall the incident.

I am a firm supporter of police enforcement and believe a focus should be on deploying police at the right time to stop the speeding motorist as this makes the road immediately safer by stopping the speeding driver, and deterring others who drive past the officer.

Further concerns are regarding the disproportionate affect that will be had on rural / regional drivers who often travel great distances on trips at higher speeds. 20km over in a 50 zone is far worse than 20 km over in a 100 zone, and it is far easier to accidentally speed in the higher zones or on longer journeys. Therefore regional drivers will get punished for what is essentially less dangerous to other road users.

Secondly region / rural drivers are not as well serviced by busses or trains and due to greater distance often can't walk or ride a bike if they are caught and lose their licence. Therefore the regional / rural driver is at greater risk of losing employment or being inconvenienced when losing their licence. At least when the cameras were marked it was clear those caught were clearly not paying attention on the road.

If the committee is firm on leaving the vehicles unmarked I suggest the areas should be sign posted, "Mobile speed cameras used in this area" for instance. This would again allow us to catch the severely distracted or careless drivers without hurting those who momentarily speed etc. These signs could remain at the location permanently whether the mobile camera is present or not and would undoubtedly focus on black spot areas, which brings me to my final point.

In my community of Bathurst the cameras are not being used in black spot areas. It's clear on their website that they are placed in high traffic areas near the CBD or on main thoroughfares to town. These areas are not known for car accidents are on straight stretches of safe road and can only be chosen to raise the most amount of money

. I know for a fact that most car accidents resulting in injury or death occur outside of the town limits on the highways between townships, yet the mobile cameras do not go to these black spots. Even if they did they wouldn't catch the offending driver or prevent the collision in the present form. They would simply send the bill to his or her estate or add to the medical / insurance bills from the collision. Something the police often do after an investigation at any rate.

In conclusion, it should be about reducing road trauma, high visibility deterrence in their present format the cameras are not doing that as well as they ought to be.