

**Submission
No 54**

MOBILE SPEED CAMERA ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS IN NSW

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In a day where liberties are increasingly eliminated, and the transparency of and trust in government are of paramount importance, these changes to road safety devices are unfortunate and undesirable. They remove any pretence of safety, focusing on revenue raising at the cost of quality of life, economic welfare, and adverse environmental impact.

As a starting point, any research that has suggested lives may be saved through removing contemporaneous learning cues is dubious, as linking road enforcement devices to driver awareness and behaviour are means of creating “teachable moments”. Signage should obviously link divergences from safe driving behaviour to the overt penalty of a fine where disregarded, and removing these cues reduces the effectiveness of this approach — often a late fine recorded by a motorist won’t even be remembered, and the only learning that occurs is to resent the government for its faceless use of AI to improve taxation. Whilst marked signs draw awareness to speed, to dangerous locations/black spots, and to the need for safe and efficient driving, removing these cues reduces these protective safe driving factors and works adversely impact driver safety.

Secondly, a goal of zero loss of life is neither practical nor reasonable. While this could be achieved by removing all vehicles, or reducing driving speeds to 5kmph, the consequences of these are not acceptable trade offs. The economy (and thus whole of life quality of life by default) depends on travel to be safe, expeditious and efficient. The balance of these factors makes or breaks elements of human welfare, cost effective travel, environmental impacts, etc. It is important that “road safety signs and cameras” be used optimally to increase safety, whilst protecting efficiency and speed. Highway fuel economy, exhaust outputs, the expedient movement of people and goods, and a number of other factors all impact on the economy and environment. Accordingly creating a fearful society that delivers COVID tests slowly to labs, delivers food slowly to grocery stores, and delivers people slowly to their home all reduce economic outputs, social wellbeing and quality of life.

I would ask the committee to please affirm the role of safety measures as being to balance life, Liberty, livelihood and quality of life. Any measure skewed towards revenue raising for the state at the cost of damage to individuals and society is a poor trade off, and misses the point of the triple aim of safety, efficiency and expedience being optimally balanced to create greater social quality of life, bearing in mind there are trade offs in all closed environments. In a time of lost freedom, people and businesses should be free to move about without fear, fines and frustration.