

**Submission  
No 96**

## **MOBILE SPEED CAMERA ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS IN NSW**

**Organisation:** Wollondilly Shire Council

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## **Parliament Inquiry – Recent Changes to Mobile Speed Camera Enforcement Programs in NSW**

The recent changes to mobile speed camera enforcement programs in NSW with removal of warning signs, reduction in high visibility markings on vehicles and enforcement in both directions of travel impacts the people living in Wollondilly Local Government area and challenges the question, how does it improve road safety.

Speeding in Wollondilly Shire is identified as a contributing factor for crashes. The Transport for NSW crash statistics 2015-2019 shows 20% of casualties in Wollondilly LGA where speed contributes to crashes compared to 16.9% for NSW.

Wollondilly Shire has 850+ km of road network. A large proportion of our roads are non-speed sign posted hence it has the default State speed limit of 100kph. The roads are mainly typical of rural roads characteristics being narrow and winding with unsealed shoulders.

There are limited places that a mobile speed camera can set up safely. The removal of visible warning signage and markings on vehicles does not alert drivers of their speed. Signage is an educational tool to alert the driver of their speed and to slow down if they are exceeding the limit unknowingly. Most importantly, it reminds drivers to observe the speed limit.

It's very positive to know that every cent from speed cameras going directly into the Community Safety Fund for road safety initiatives. However, for drivers to receive a penalty notice sometime after they have been captured speeding, does not assist with compliance. With most people being time poor and distracted, motorists will continue to drive as they have in the past unless there is a reminder to alert the driver such as warning signs and marked surveillance vehicles.

An increase in Police tasking would be more effective to catch speeding drivers. Fines are a form of punishment and not a form of education for safe driving. The embarrassment, cost and loss of demerit points issued at the time, by Police is a better alternative to mobile speed cameras without signage. It has been proven that a presence of Police vehicles has the desired effect to slow down drivers and combined with education about speeding, will have a greater impact to alert the community of speeding.

Will removal of warning signs to mobile speed cameras prove to change driver behaviour and reduce long term speeding? A greater impact to reduce the number of crashes is if drivers are to know where and when they are speeding. Speeding through statistics is not only based on over speed but also includes when motorists do not drive according to the road conditions.

For people living in Wollondilly area, with limited public transport and loss of a driver's licence, means that it would fall to family and friends to assist with day to day travel and add a burden to the family. There is also a high risk especially for young novice drivers ('P' platers) to gain and/or retain employment. With the loss of a drivers licence, this can greatly impact families and their mental health as well.

Enforcement on both directional traffic could lead to driver's fear and impact on confident driving. This will also raise their anxiety level causing stress to drivers. For the operator, this could be an unsafe situation and could encourage vandalism. Similarly, this could be incorrectly target the 'pulled over' vehicles. Therefore, 'pulled over' drivers could be at risk.

Marked vehicles encourage transparency and trust of drivers. On the contrary unmarked/unsigned surveillance vehicles will be perceived as secretive and reduce confidence of drivers towards authority.

### **Recommendation from Council:**

1. Re-introduce warning signs and high visibility signage on mobile speed camera vehicles to alert drivers of their speed. For a change in driver behaviour to be long term and assist in the reduction of crashes, education is most important not only with advertising through media, but with visible signage.
2. Increase the number of Police tasking speeding drivers. Police can continue to educate to the motorists that it doesn't matter where or when they are driving, they risk being caught by Police if they are speeding.
3. Fines are a form of punishment and not education. Road Safety advocates (such as Road Safety Officers etc) to continue promoting and educating the community to the ramifications of speeding, alcohol and fatigue. Targeting how this impacts the individual if/when they are caught not conforming.
4. Consider removing the enforcement of both directions of travel especially on rural roads. For many drivers aware of this, it causes distraction due to scanning a 'pulled over' or parked vehicle when sighted, being that there is no visible markings on vehicles to identify them.
5. Reinstate marked vehicles for the safety of 'pulled over' vehicles being wrongly targeted.