

**Submission
No 148**

MOBILE SPEED CAMERA ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS IN NSW

Name: Cr Alex Christian

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1 June 2021

Committee Chair The Hon. Lou Amato MLC and other committee members.

Submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety regarding the use of mobile speed camera enforcement.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety regarding the appropriate use of mobile speed cameras.

I am a Councillor on Bathurst Regional Council. Though making this submission on my own behalf, I believe my views reflect a large majority of my constituents in the Bathurst region.

I have grave concerns regarding the policy to disrobe mobile speed cameras (MSC) by removing warning signage and markings on these devices. I also have major ethical concerns regarding the locations chosen to place MSC.

It is my view by removing warning signs and markings from these MSC reclassifies these devices from being safety focused to plainly government revenue focused. When a motorist is doing the wrong thing and putting other motorists lives in danger by speeding, a fully marked MSC coupled with warning signs is more likely cause that motorist to slow down to avoid a fine. I do not see how a motorist getting a fine in the mail two weeks after the dangerous behavior occurred does anything to save lives. Its woefully obvious.

I also have concerns regarding the locations of MSC, where in my and neighboring local government areas they are placed on roads that are not and cannot be described as "black spot" dangerous areas of road, instead on beautiful straight wide roads where, as my research suggests, have either never had accidents or had very few accidents in the history of record keeping.

This is disgraceful and frankly unethical. The following roads in the Bathurst area have been identified as areas appropriate for these so called lifesaving, behavior altering MSC; Brilliant Street, Vittoria Street, Mitchell Highway (in an area that is inappropriate if safety not revenue is the priority), Durham Street, Great Western Highway (Again in a disgraceful location which can only be described as revenue focused), Kendall Avenue, Sydney Road, Bentinck Street, Rocket Street, Vale Road, Gilmour Street, Sofala Road, Littlebourne Street and O'Connell Road. The specific locations chosen in Orange are just as disgraceful.

I find nothing more offensive than government officials passing policy or legislation blatantly for revenue raising purposes whilst promoted under the guise of saving lives. These MSC should protect road users, that should be the priority, not raising revenue for the government of the day. I understand fines are at a record high since these changes were implemented. I would argue that this is proof that people are not slowing down as they would for a marked MSC with signage, hence this decision is making the road less safe for me, my family and my constituents. The Newcastle Herold reported an 1100% increase in fines in Newcastle and the Bathurst suburb of Kelso's numbers are up, with over 300 people receiving fines in the last two months , its ridiculous.

I invite anyone from this committee to join me for a day in the Bathurst area to tour these locations where you can see firsthand how blatantly unethical this program is under its current format.

High MSC in black spot areas are the only logical and ethical way this program will genuinely save lives, if that is this committees intention.

I thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Alex J. CHRISTIAN
Bathurst