

**Submission
No 161**

MOBILE SPEED CAMERA ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS IN NSW

Name: Mr Michael Penfold

Date Received: 21 June 2021

To whom it may concern,

I am a 46 year old male and have held a drivers licence since I was 16 years old. In all that time up until one month ago I had only ever received one infringement notice. This was when I was 21 years old for travelling 10km over the speed limit on the F3 freeway. That is one infringement notice in 30 years. About four weeks ago I drove along the pacific highway at Berowra south bound from an 80km/h zone to a 60km/h zone near Berowra train station. This stretch of road goes for about 800m before reverting to an 80km/h zone. I understand the reason for the change in speed limit for this section of road as it is a built up area and have no problem with it. What I do have a problem is that one of your unmarked signless speed camera cars was set up on this stretch of road picking up cars that were travelling less than 10km/h over the speed limit and infringing them. I was one of those drivers. It would have to be one of the most blatant cases of revenue raising I had ever seen. Where the car was set up it was only about 200 metres from returning to 80km/h and was well past the built up area the zone was designed to protect. Receiving this infringement notice after such a long period of fault free driving has certainly left me quite jaded.

I like to consider myself as a very safe driver who obeys the road rules and always does my best to travel to the speed limit. That said, I am also a realist. If 30 years of driving has taught me anything it is much more important to be aware of your surroundings and what the cars around you are doing. This sometimes means you might not look at your speedometer every five seconds and your speed may fluctuate from time to time as you keep up with the natural flow of traffic.

Since receiving this infringement notice I now find myself obsessively monitoring my speedometer to make sure I am right on the speed limit. This monitoring is at the expense of my situational awareness of what other cars and pedestrians are doing around me.

If these camera cars are about safety then there needs to be more tolerance of cars travelling slightly over the speed limit. I submit that they should be targeting vehicles that are travelling 20km+ over the speed limit. These are the drivers that are a real danger to others and should quite rightly be infringed. This would resolve my issue of needing to constantly monitor my Speedo which I promise you is not safer than maintaining constant situational awareness.

As an aside, I also disapprove of these vehicles being privatised or contracted out. All this does is encourage the operators to infringe as many people as possible ie. high volume low speed limit violations. This is not about safety, this is about revenue raising and fining responsible drivers for marginal breaches rather than targeting the less prevalent but much more dangerous higher speed drivers.