

**Submission
No 218**

MOBILE SPEED CAMERA ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS IN NSW

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We are continually told that speed cameras and the like are "all about safety". I've come to consider that a complete lie, or at the very least, incredible naivety on behalf of Govt.

I was always of the belief that mobile speed cameras were about increasing safety in particular areas, on certain roads or black spots. Whenever I saw a mobile speed camera, I noticed every single person slowing down, even if they weren't actually exceeding the speed limit.

This is surely the intent - to make these areas safer, which is exactly what I could see happening. On the plus side, rather than appearing as if Government was using the devices simply as a means of income, it was instead a case of "there's a sign, we've told you there's a camera, if you get fined you deserve it for stupidity".

The cameras could indeed be said to be increasing the safety of the areas they were utilised.

That is now simply not the case. They are most certainly used as a revenue raising tool and those places where the cameras are situated do absolutely NOTHING to increase the safety of the area they are placed. How is safety increased if a car continues to exceed the speed limit (quite often without even realising) ? Are our Politicians relying on the old "well, everyone will drive slower because they'll never know where a camera might be" ? If that's the case then Govt should be ashamed. Is it Governments job to make people continually fearful or "on the lookout"? No.

People being people are always going to occasionally do the wrong thing. They don't necessarily mean to, but they do. If you think taking signage away warning of cameras is suddenly going to make everyone better drivers (or should I say FEARFUL drivers) then you're wrong. This is nothing more than revenue raising under the guise of safety.

If we are serious about the safety aspect of speed cameras, then place them where needed and let people know, to genuinely make that area of road safer. The revenue will still come in, because there's always idiots around, but at least then Govt. can say it is genuinely concerned with safety, rather than simply gouging it's people in a cheap attempt at revenue raising. Government is meant to help us live our lives, help us have better lives - not be some cane wielding school principal.

Just once, look like you're doing things for the right reason.