

**Submission  
No 225**

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

**Name:** Mr Michael Barnett

**Date Received:** 3 July 2021

Dear committee,

This submission is from a member of the public who has followed the introduction of these cars from very early on.

As I'm lead to believe, the private company who run the camera cars are partially funded by one of the banks in Australia. As part of the contract at their commencement they were to receive 5% of all fines in the first year. After the trialling and dependant on their success, that percentage increased to 20% over some following years.

When the vehicles were introduced, they were allegedly for our safety, to make the roads safer and free up police vehicles, namely highway patrol units, for other duties.

Now, having a large money making company like a bank delivering fines, who's effectiveness is highly debatable, and who's motivation is clearly profits driven in charge of our safety seems a very ambiguous system where safety is not the priority. These backers are of course going to push for the implementation of methods that increase the lining of their pockets, and as the current statistics report, do nothing to increase safety. In fact I'd argue their sneaky tactics make it more unsafe with drivers randomly braking upon suspicion of having seen one of these unmarked vehicles.

I'd also like the committee to consider thinking of just one other safety device that makes the public safer by being hidden. And no, security cameras do not count. They are a security device, not a safety device as these camera cars were alleged to be for. Hidden defibrillators, fire extinguishers, wet floor signs, any safety device you can think of, is more effective when easily visible.

I'd also like to argue that the lower the amount of fines issued should be seen as the measure of success here, because it means that motorists are obeying the speed limits or that the cars are effective in their jobs and are actively slowing them on sight. More fines issued should be testament to how badly these vehicles are operating!

Lastly, visible police presence will be a much preferred method of speed regulation. These camera cars do nothing to change anything at the immediate time when safety of the public is in jeopardy. They also don't detect a whole range of other driving offenses that police vehicles can and do, like intoxicated or drugged drivers, unregistered vehicles, dangerous or negligent driving and so on. Not to mention they can respond to other incidents nearby as well, but a camera car will do none of this.

On a personal note, I'd rather be given a fine by a wholly state funded entity than a privately owned one who's motivation is to get a share of that cash. At least my money goes back to the state in full and might be used for the public, instead of lining the pockets of some bankers who's goal is purely for profit.

Thank you for reviewing my submission.

Regards,  
Michael Barnett