

**Submission
No 237**

MOBILE SPEED CAMERA ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS IN NSW

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When speed cameras were first introduced, they were only ever supposed to be placed in known 'black spots'. The cameras were sign posted in order to slow drivers down and prevent any accidents and potential loss of life. Not every speed camera location actually had a speed camera installed either. The cameras were rotated in order to keep drivers from speeding as they weren't sure if there was a camera installed that day or not. The revenue generated from speeding drivers was supposed to go towards fixing the 'black spot' and then camera would be moved to another dangerous section of road to repeat the process and help reduce the road toll.

Had we have continued with this system, we would have much safer roads now with potentially no black spots and maybe even a reduced road toll, but the government clearly lost site of this vision when they realised how much revenue speed cameras raise. It was easy money, and so the 'speed kills' campaign was born. It was a win win situation. Convince the public that if they just 'slow down' on our roads, they will help reduce the road toll and make our roads much safer and the government will do their part by introducing more speed cameras to keep our roads safe from speeding drivers. It was the perfect recipe for making money while giving the perception of 'saving lives'. It has been this way now for the past 20 years with very little reduction in the road toll, but a massive increase in the amount of speed cameras and revenue raised which is completely disproportionate for the amount of lives actually being saved. We even have speed cameras installed on brand new roads that have just been built. Is that implying that our engineers dont know how to build safe roads so we need speed cameras on them for 'safety'? We even have speed cameras installed on roads with no fatalities ever recorded. If nobody has ever died on a road, then that road is obviously safe and the speed limit is suitable so why install a speed camera?

Our vehicles are getting safer year on year with such safety features as ABS, stability control, autonomous breaking etc.... but our speed limits are getting lower and lower and our roads are poorly maintained and a lot them are lined with trees with no crash barriers which is a recipe for death, but the government continues to ignore this and invest more and more money in speed cameras.

I think it's time we call it for what it is.... revenue raising.