Submission No 316

MOBILE SPEED CAMERA ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS IN NSW

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To honorable members of the committee,

The changes to mobile speed cameras are deeply disturbing and I wish to express some of my concerns on the matter.

The first matter are the numerous studies which claim that these changes are intended to increase road safety and to reduce the number of persons injured or killed. Monash University Accident Research Centre's independent analysis, which has been used by NSW Centre for Road Safety to justify these changes, suggests that each year between 34 and 43 lives could be saved and 600 injuries could be prevented. To date, 148 lives have been lost on NSW roads this year, an increase from 145 at the same time last year.

This is a far cry from the 43 lives that have been claimed to be saved by these measures. The fact of the matter is clear, taking away mobile speed camera signage and warnings have not made NSW roads any safer by any measure.

The matter of revenue is my second grievance. The NSW government has raised their revenue from speeding offenses by 1200% between March 2020 and March 2021. There has yet to be any visible sign that any of this public money is being put toward the public good. Furthermore, the privatisation of speeding fines is a false economy. For a private company to make profit from this activity, they have to fine an ever increasing number of people for speeding. Surely this philosophy stands in contrast to the intention of speeding fines, to reduce the number of people speeding and reducing the number of lives lost on the road.

In order to make our roads safer, speed cameras should be strategically placed at identified areas of frequent and fatal crashes and should be highly visible and signed.