

**Submission  
No 335**

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

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TO: The NSW Parliamentary Committee into Mobile speed  
camera enforcement programs in NSW

Dear Committee members,

As an elected Liberal, I am disappointed that I should even need to write to you to declare that the Government's decision to remove speed warning signs from speed cameras is a very disappointing move. I believe it neither improves road safety, and politically it's poison.

Respect for laws, including laws relating to speed and road safety must be grounded in maintaining the community's trust that decisions are made based on evidence.

Any taint of hypocrisy and that trust is badly undermined.

Clearly, fines are intended to modify behaviour. Fining people for a low-level offence when that they will remain unaware of their infraction until potentially weeks later, and may not even recall the circumstances of the event is transparently unwise.

Further, the revelation that low-range speed camera offences have delivered a bonanza of revenue to the Treasury cannot permit the Road Minister to claim that this is only about road safety. It is obvious that it is not, and to claim as much further undermines the government's reputation.

But the main point I wish to make is to remark that it is extraordinary to think that, prior to 2011, Members who *went on to become Deputy Premier, Roads Minister, and even Police Minister* regularly excoriated the then Labor Government for using Speed Cameras as revenue raisers.

Here are some quotes from those MP's in Hansard:

"The Hon. DUNCAN GAY (Nationals): My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Roads. Does his Government still acknowledge the value that marked cars and marked cameras offer as a deterrent to speeding? Will the Minister indicate whether the Roads and Traffic Authority has put forward plans to use unmarked police cars and/or hire cars with no signage as stationery speed camera vehicles? Would this mean that the Government has given up on deterrent measures and has resorted to just revenue raising?" (10th May 2007)"

"The Hon. MICHAEL GALLACHER (Liberal): My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Roads. Does the Minister recall on 10 May the Opposition questioned him about plans to use parked, unmarked vehicles with no signage to catch speeding drivers? On that occasion why did the Minister not admit to the public of New South Wales that the Roads and Traffic Authority [RTA] had plans to use covert speed cameras? Whilst the Minister talks about transparency and a preparedness to work with the public, why did he only admit to the plan when the Daily Telegraph published the story on the front page yesterday? (06 June 2007)"

"Mr ANDREW STONER (Nationals): My question is directed to the Minister for Roads. As the Minister said yesterday he had "no doubt" that the number of locations at which motorists can be caught by mobile speed cameras will change, will he now come clean with the motoring public and admit that he is planning to increase them by almost seven times, to 1,000, despite failing to provide any evidence they are anything more than a sneaky way to line the Government's pockets? (11 November 2010)"

Respected members of the committee: How can anyone place trust in the Government when such senior members of the party routinely criticised Labor for threatening to do precisely the same thing?

One is entitled to ask: What has changed since these remarks were made?

Certainly, one thing that *has* changed is the prevalence of vehicle safety technology that permits drivers to avoid accidents through radar activated autonomous braking, computer vision based lane keep assist, and adaptive cruise control.

Only active, local Highway Patrol policing works to bring the road toll down.

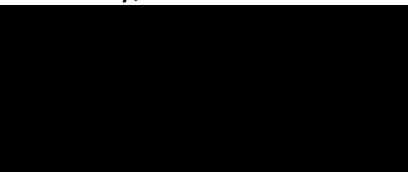
Getting a fine in the post two weeks after an infraction is recorded by a clandestine camera is no goad to better driver behaviour.

Indeed, it is widely perceived as arbitrary, cynical, grasping, and hypocritical.

It fails the 'pub test'.

The Deputy Chair of the Committee will attest she has been present with me recently at meetings of local Liberals and we've rarely seen them so incensed.

Sincerely,



Nathan Zamprogno,

Liberal Hawkesbury City Councillor.

Chairman, Hawkesbury River County Council