

**Submission
No 355**

MOBILE SPEED CAMERA ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS IN NSW

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To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for taking the time to investigate the recent unnecessary changes to mobile speed cameras in New South Wales. The introduction of speed cameras across the state was to reduce the number of fatalities in areas where fatalities had occurred or where there was a high probability it would occur. Previous reports have strongly indicated that "not meeting projected contractual revenue targets" was the initial reason The Hon. Andrew James Constance pushed for the changes to unmarked and no warning signs of mobile speed cameras. This covert approach does not enhance road safety, as evidenced by Victoria's significant spike in road related deaths in comparison to NSW in the years leading up to the change. The revenue targets now being made proves that the changes to mobile speed cameras was purely revenue making with no impact on road related deaths. The NSW Government has increased revenue by 1200% with majority of increase coming since January 2021.

The Hon. Andrew James Constance responded to a petition on behalf of the NSW Government related to the death of child in a road related incident. The community partitioned (10,000 signatures) to have traffic lights installed at Eastern Road, Rooty Hill to prevent more deaths at the crossing where a high volume of car accidents occur. The response to this partition was that \$92 million dollars on road safety was being dedicated to regions and that they would repaint the crossing and put in increased lighting in the area. If this incident was related to revenue raising or not meeting contractual revenue targets would the necessary, change of traffic lights be made? The fact is that changes to this road are in dire need as it has caused a child related death, however The Hon. Andrew James Constance does not hold up to his motto of saving lives unless it is related to revenue raising.

Drivers are now watching their speedometer for longer periods of time and taking their eyes off the road in an effort to reduce increases of speed when traveling by 1-4km as the mobile speed cameras are issuing fines with such small increase of speed. The placement of mobile speed cameras is not on targeted locations known for speed related deaths, rather at the bottom of a hill or on a long road. The cause of the changes was to reduce death related accidents on roads, it has rather caused more anxiety as drivers are now not concentrating on the road and will often slam on breaks when they realise they have passed a mobile speed camera. High visible policing has proved to slow down drivers and should be encouraged by the NSW Government. Furthermore, issuing of fines two weeks after the fact of a driver speeding with no signage does not educate nor provide drivers with the opportunity to change driving habits in the first instance which, as a result does not prevent the likelihood of an accident and possible fatality.

Moreover, utilising a private contractor to implement mobile speed cameras has caused unneeded negative community unrest. As mobile speed cameras are mobile and not fixed there is a significant probability that the cameras do not meet the National Association of Testing Authorities guidelines which is made evident with the number of positive court appeals regarding fines issued due to detection of speeding via mobile speed camera. The number of appeals has increased in courts and as a result is putting an unnecessary burden on our already over stretched court system. It is for this reason that unmarked, no warning sign mobile speed cameras should be absolutely taken off the roads.

Lastly, the placement of mobile speed cameras needs to be investigated. On my drive to work, I notice that the location predominantly of mobile speed cameras are in low socio-economic and high Indigenous population areas. I noted that a community member was fined 4 times from the same mobile speed camera and was traveling 63km in a 60km on Luxford Road, Shalvey. The impact of four fines has had a significant negative impact on their social-emotional, physical and economic wellbeing. It was found that their car speedometer measured the speed of 62km at 60km which is in the margin of error. It is for this reason that mobile speed cameras should be abolished and not on roads.

As a result, the removal of warning signs and markings on mobile speed cameras was not made with community safety in mind rather blatant revenue raising scheme by the NSW Government. The arguments above shows that this scheme does not offer any real benefit to the community that the Government is employed to protect and act responsibly on behalf.