

**Submission  
No 375**

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

**Organisation:** Transurban

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8 July 2021

The Hon Lou Amato MLC  
Chair  
Staysafe Committee  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Mr Amato

**RE: Inquiry into mobile speed camera enforcement programs in NSW**

Thank you for your invitation to provide a submission to the above Inquiry, established by the NSW Staysafe Committee. Mr Charlton, Transurban's Chief Executive Officer, has asked me to respond.

Transurban operates urban motorways in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, the Greater Washington Area in the USA and Montreal in Canada. The Terms of Reference for the Inquiry seek to understand the recent changes to the NSW speed camera program from a range of perspectives, many of which are outside of Transurban's experience and expertise. However, we recognise the significant evidence available, including the Transport for NSW/Centre for Road Safety research report on '*Road safety mobile speed camera operations in other Australian jurisdictions.*' This report summarises the effectiveness of speed enforcement and management programs to reduce the rate and severity of road trauma.

Speed cameras located on Transurban's assets are the responsibility of and managed by the NSW Government. Accordingly, our response to the Inquiry draws on our road safety experience and activities to provide relevant and real-world examples and insights.

***Road Safety at Transurban***

Transurban is an active contributor in Australia's road safety efforts, committed to achieving a transport system free from fatalities and life changing injuries. Our mission is to strengthen communities through transport. To that extent, we have adopted the safe system approach to underpin our health, safety and environment strategy, with our road safety activities focused on the design, construction, operations, maintenance and support for users of our networks and how we interface with the broader transport system. We report on our performance against the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals in our [Corporate Report](#) and [Sustainability Supplement](#).

Transurban's road safety key performance indicators include our Road Injury Crash Index, which measures the rate of serious injury crashes by vehicle kilometres travelled. Our targets are established following analysis of past performance including crash rates and types, changes to our assets and the surrounding network, as well as understanding the contributing factors to crashes including congestion, speed, distraction and vehicle type.

## ***Data and research***

Our targets are informed by rich data from our tolling and monitoring systems that assist us in understanding the road safety issues and opportunities on our network. Fusing data from existing technology and systems and accessing new sets of 'real time' data such as near misses are emerging as critical information to understand the safety issues that have been 'unseen' until a crash occurs, allowing for resources and efforts to be better allocated to eliminate risk on our roads.

These new data sources are important for the whole transport network to:

- support enforcement practices, community education and engagement
- inform reviews of standards
- provide evidence for procurement of maintenance and construction requirements, and
- model the most effective interventions to eliminate crash risk.

Transurban also undertakes independent assessment of our performance through a regular crash analysis by Monash University Accident Research Centre (MUARC) and ausRAP road safety ratings by the Australian Road Research Board (ARRB). MUARC's most recent analysis (2017-18) found that Transurban's roads in Sydney have 68 per cent fewer fatal and serious injury crashes than comparable roads. Due to limited data availability, it was not possible to report on the speed zone of crashes or behavioural factors such as speeding.

Transurban is committed to actively supporting road safety and injury prevention research. We have entered into a second three-year partnership with Neuroscience Research Australia (NeuRA) with the aim of providing the most up-to-date safety advice to road users through comprehensive research. Together we have created the Transurban Road Safety Centre which combines world-class research with state-of-the-art facilities. It includes a crash-test sled capable of reaching real-life crash speeds and cameras that can record up to 1,200 frames per second, allowing researchers to see what occurs in collisions. The current research program focuses on eliminating motorcyclist pelvic injuries, addressing child safety in cars, and improving older driver and passenger protection.

## ***Supporting road safety policy, communication and innovation***

Transurban actively contributes to road safety policy in the jurisdictions in which we operate. We have responded to Federal and NSW road safety and transport inquiries, including the:

- draft NSW 2026 Road Safety Action Plan
- draft National Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030
- SafeWork NSW Guide to Managing Work, Health and Safety in the Food Delivery Industry
- 2018 review into the National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020, and
- NSW Staysafe Committee's inquiry into truck safety in February 2018.

These responses outline Transurban's position on speed management and support for automated enforcement on high speed motorways, specifically average speed cameras. This position extends to all vehicles and all contexts including work zones, which are particularly high-risk settings for motorists, incident response crews and emergency services workers.

A key road safety risk for Transurban employees, contractors and users of our open road motorways is the recurring issue of some motorists' behaviors around mobile works, such as around our truck mounted attenuators utilising the shoulder side of the road for litter collection activities. This is a topic that impacts our industry as a whole and automated enforcement technologies, including speed cameras and management contribute to addressing these safety issues, along with safety campaigns aimed at influencing broader cultural change on our roads.

Transurban works collaboratively with our state partners, policing agencies and the media to address risky and unsafe behaviours on our roads and the broader road network.

Transurban's 8.8 million customers collectively take around two million trips (900,000 of these are in NSW) on our roads every day, allowing us to gain useful insights through our rich data and on road technologies to raise awareness and opportunities for behaviour change. This includes speeding and other common issues observed on our network such as over-height vehicles, pedestrians, distracted drivers, and use of emergency lanes. Our targeted road safety messages are promoted through our customer communications, social media and mainstream media, and via on-road channels such as Variable Message Signs.

Transurban has a strong history of investigating and trialling new and innovative measures to enhance road safety and network performance, including connected and autonomous vehicle technology, speed harmonisation and work zone safety. We support speed management and enforcement technologies that have been demonstrated to effectively improve safety on the broader network, reduce crashes and contribute to the elimination of serious injuries and fatalities.

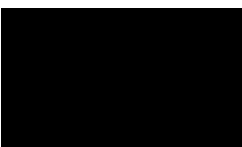
### **Conclusion**

Transurban supports measures to ensure the achievement of NSW's road safety target of zero fatalities and serious injuries.

We draw on the evidence base and sound research of experts and the evaluation of programs to inform our position, strategy and partnerships to ensure interventions have the best chance of effectiveness. The Transport for NSW/Centre for Road Safety October 2020 research report on '*Road safety mobile speed camera operations in other Australian jurisdictions*' summarises the research on the significant impact that speed has on trauma outcomes. Road safety camera programs have been evaluated as highly effective by world leading researchers and experts in supporting motorists to adhere to speed limits.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss our response to your inquiry.

Yours sincerely



Elizabeth Waller  
Road Safety Manager

