

**Submission
No 380**

MOBILE SPEED CAMERA ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS IN NSW

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Please review the current changes to the mobile speed camera laws.

The purpose of speed cameras is to make drivers slow down in areas where there are high rates of accidents. The presence of a sign warning of an upcoming speed camera makes people slow down immediately. There is a clear cause and effect.

Placing a hidden speed camera does NOT make drivers slow down. Receiving a fine in the mail weeks after the fact (let alone not even knowing where you were or what exactly you were doing at the time) does not reduce your speed. It does not teach a lesson. It is a purely punitive exercise to extract money from road users, and disproportionately affects people with lower incomes.

My housemate received a fine for going 3km over the speed limit from a mobile speed camera. This is frankly ridiculous, as it is within the margin of error of a cars speedometer. Furthermore, going 3km over briefly by accident is not a danger to anyone on the road. The fine levied against him was a pure money making exercise.

Furthermore, I believe the culture change the law is claiming to be instituting ("you won't know where you can get caught so you'll always be on guard" is also harmful. There is a stretch of road on my commute to work that often has a mobile speed camera set up among a row of parked cars. While it is unmarked, a keen eye can see the camera in the back. In the past few months I have noticed a few near misses with people driving slowly pas the section and likely not looking at the road but instead scrutinising the cars parked on the side of the road. I have seen someone fail to give way to a vehicle turning from a side road, and an almost rear end collision in this section. I think this panopticon style fear of being caught is making drivers paranoid and distracting them from the immediate dangers of driving.

Consider reverting back to the original laws please.