

**Submission
No 430**

MOBILE SPEED CAMERA ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS IN NSW

Name: Mrs Flossy Chisholm-Ray

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Mobile speed camera enforcement programs in NSW

Submission to the committee

5th July 2021

To whom it may concern,

Allow me to begin by saying that I am deeply troubled by the concept of unmarked speed cameras as a way of creating a safer road environment in the state of NSW.

Today, I offer a submission with regards to mobile speed camera enforcement programs in NSW. I make this submission as a private citizen and do not represent an organisation or position in doing so. For ease, I will articulate my concerns against the terms of reference for the inquiry.

- a) The nature of the changes to speed cameras that causes me the greatest concern is the removal of signage from roads where they are set up and from vehicles. Specifically, I am concerned that:
1. In the past, signs provided a reminder of the speed limit on a stretch of road, allowing drivers to adjust their behaviour and drive at the prescribed speed. The removal of these signs provides fewer opportunities for drivers to become aware of the speed that the RMS has deemed appropriate.
 2. Drivers are aware of mobile speed cameras in our community but do not know where they are, hence, they may be distracted when driving as they scan the parking lane and footpath for vehicles that they suspect hold mobile speed cameras. Driver distraction causes a significant risk to the safety of all road users.
- b) With regards to the research, modelling, and evidence of injury reductions, I ask that the committee takes care to consider the probable reduction in traffic as a result of COVID-19 in 2020/21 and the proportional reduction in incidents. Specifically, that with fewer vehicles on the road (for example, as a result of telecommutes, businesses moving online, caution from citizens in going into the community unnecessarily, and public health orders) any reduction in accidents may simply be from having fewer cars on the road and not be an impact of mobile speed cameras.
- c) As a road user, I am extremely concerned that mobile speed cameras, and the changes that have increased their numbers, while reducing their signage, are in ineffective way of changing driver behaviour for the better.
Consider that a person is mistakenly driving over the speed limit. Signage, or a conversation with a police officer, would give them the chance to change their behaviour immediately and drive more safely. An unmarked mobile speed camera would do nothing to change their behaviour, until they receive a fine. If that stretch of road is on a regular commute, that may be 30 occasions (if twice a day for three weeks, on business days) on which the driver could have driven more appropriately, if they had been corrected, rather than secretly photographed by an unmarked car.
- d, e, and f) I find the premise that the government and or private companies profit from unsafe driving deeply troubling. Surely the committee can see that this creates a financial incentive to continue unsafe driving, to maximise profits. If speed limits keep road users safe, then breeches and cameras should not be hidden or secret, they should be signposted as clearly possible, to create safe behaviour and not just money.

Thank you for the time taken to read and consider my submission.

Best regards,
Flossy Chisholm-Ray