

**Submission
No 495**

MOBILE SPEED CAMERA ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS IN NSW

Name: Ms Noreen Reeves

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Firstly let me introduce myself.

I am a 65 year old single female. I live in the Central West of NSW. I do a lot of country driving and visit my children and grandchildren in the Sydney suburban area on a regular basis. I travel around 20,000km each year. Before I moved here 5 years ago, I lived in Sydney's western suburbs, commuted to work every day by car and travelled around 50,000km each year.

I have what I believe to be a good driving history – no infringements since 2015 and only two speeding offences in nearly 50 years of driving. I definitely do not set out to 'speed'. Where possible I drive at the speed limit and 'drive to the conditions' at all times.

I sit in the category of 'if I don't speed I don't have anything to worry about'. True enough in 99.9% of my driving because it is based in rural areas. My thinking is that any vehicle on the roadside is automatically 'suspect' – it could be broken down and its occupants in need of assistance or it could be a mobile speed camera. If it's the former, I stop, if it's the latter, I slow down considerably. I also have the comfort of knowing where the speed camera 'landing pads' are located on my local roads.

I drive a vehicle that is 17 years old. It's a 4wd – ideally suited to towing my caravan around both New South Wales and interstate when I go touring, driving over paddocks to cut firewood for my slow combustion fire and ensuring that I can get to and from wherever I am going and back home again safely.

17year old vehicles however do not have 'exact' speedos. According to my GPS, my speedo is over reading up to 6km/h when it is showing 100km/h. Very typical of older vehicles and I understand the reasoning behind it. This plays into my favour when it comes to mobile speed camera – even if my speedo is saying I'm driving at 100km/h, I am actually only travelling at 94km/h. So I'm unlikely to ever be infringed for speeding.

My issue, however, is in suburbia where there are more vehicles parked on the side of roads. My instinctive thought is turned more to the 'mobile speed camera' than the broken down motorist. So many suburban areas have so many differing speed zones – the same road could be at various times 40km/h, 50km/h, 60km/h and 70km/h and even more. Confusing at best and dangerous for both road users and pedestrians at worst. I find myself always questioning what speed I should be travelling at for the road conditions at that particular spot. Inevitably I find myself classed as a 'slow granny' because I am going slower than just about everyone else. Do those others know the road better than I do and therefore are more confident with the road conditions to travel faster? Are their vehicles better suited for a faster speed? Or are they just reckless, young and carefree and either don't know or don't care about the consequences of their actions?

I have to travel 80km in any given direction to my nearest traffic lights. I have to travel 25km to my nearest roundabout. I live in a rural village that has a 50km speed limit and that speed limit is rarely adhered to, especially by those in a hurry. The few times that a mobile speed camera has been parked on the landing pad on the main road through town has seen quite a few motorists find out the hard way that they were unheeding of the signage coming into town. The same can be said for when the local highway patrol vehicle does a cruise through here; its guaranteed that at least one motorist will be pulled over and often while that one is being dealt with, another will speed past. I believe that the

signage is sufficient for this village; in my touring around the state and visits to Sydney, that is not always the case.

And therein lies the problem. Is signage enough? I do not believe so and that is based on the evidence that I see every day in my rural village. Putting signs out to warn motorists of an upcoming speed camera will likely prevent a few motorists from being infringed, but will it stop those who are doing well over the signposted speed limit? Not without potentially causing a traffic accident when they suddenly brake to hopefully prevent being caught by the speed camera. Those who are only travelling a few kilometres per hour over the posted sign limit could simply lift their foot off the accelerator at the sign, but those who are travelling 10km/h or more over wouldn't have a chance. In a suburban area, there are a myriad of signs to take in; a speed camera warning sign would be just another one in the mix. It would probably go further up the 'must action' list than say a 'no left turn' sign. My thinking is it would be up with a 'stop' sign and 'school zone' warning lights.

Its often a bitter pill to swallow to realise that you are a 'speed demon' when you receive the fine in the mail. And then there's the implications of that speeding fine on your green slip price for the next four years via your demerit points; that is one reaction that isn't made obvious to many people. It's a 'fine' that you pay for at least five times – once for the actual offence and four times for each vehicle registration over the 40 months it takes to 'clear' the demerit points attached to that offence.

Noreen Reeves

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Tuesday 6 July 2021