

**Submission
No 503**

MOBILE SPEED CAMERA ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS IN NSW

Name: Mr Ian Heslop

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To the Parliamentary Committee,

This is the first time that I have felt compelled to make a submission of any kind and I do hope that I have done this correctly and am able to contribute positively to the enquiry process.

The reason for my submission is that like most NSW road users, there simply does not seem to be a credible reason for the removal of speed camera warning signs other than the convenient response that if you don't speed, you won't be booked. This in itself is true in an idealistic world however I fail to see where covert operations such as unmarked and hidden speed cameras could be described as an effective policing tactic.

In all of my 55 years, policing was always meant to act as a visible deterrent toward the committing of any crime and a police presence was to create a sense of safety and calm that the public relied upon. I can always remember being told that if I ever was lost or in trouble to "find a man in blue" and they would help however they could. This same presence and profile of law enforcement made people think twice about their actions and I am sure prevented any number of illegal activities from taking place.

The speed camera signage that has now been abandoned would have had this same effect in terms of prevention from creating a visual reminder to think twice about driving behaviours and avoiding fines, suspensions and of course life threatening accidents.

Now however, the first thing that any driver will know about this will be contained in a prosecution letter that now simply punishes past behaviours and does nothing about preventing them at the time they occurred. The constant reminder and training that signage provides is now removed and the opportunity for the driver to slow down at that exact moment is lost forever. I did actually think that having drivers slow down is ultimately the desired outcome but this doesn't now seem to be the case.

I am the first to agree that any one life lost on the road is one too many however I am yet to witness any positive outcomes on the road toll caused by the removal of speed camera warning signage and marked vehicles. All that we have seen instead is a remarkable increase in state revenue from fines. Some of the fines issued would be well deserved I am sure, however a lot more of it is for minor indiscretions with absolutely no recourse available for the driver. Again, they are instead told that if they didn't speed they wouldn't receive the fine. This is harsh and uncompromising justice that seems to be having no effect on the road toll as desired.

As a driver who completes large distances of travel each year in both city and rural areas, I can genuinely inform you that while the increase in speed cameras takes place there are an untold number of drivers displaying poor driving skills in other areas such as right lane driving under the speed limit, overly slow driving on open roads, failing to look around prior to lane changes, driving too close and the list goes on. These could all be explained as the age old complaints of every driver however these and other misdemeanours are still illegal and seemingly go without punishment in any way whatsoever. These behaviours also cause impatience and anxiety amongst other road users that are at times the cause of speeding and other infringements.

There will be no change in these illegal behaviours unless these too are policed by an active and visible law enforcement. Instead of this the state of NSW has seemingly placed almost all responsibility for monitoring and ongoing education of driver behaviour in the hands of camera technology and the issuing of punitive speeding fines.

Technology has its place and speed cameras should remain and be assisted by an increase in mobile phone cameras. There just needs to be a balance created with a combination of active policing and preventative signage that engages the public and continues to remind them of expectations and establish the correct behaviours.

Your sincerely,

Ian Heslop