

**Submission  
No 535**

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

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The Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety  
Parliament House, Macquarie Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

**RE: Mobile speed camera enforcement programs in NSW**

I write to you today regarding the recent changes to mobile speed cameras in NSW and how I believe that these changes have clearly put government revenue ahead of road safety. For the record I have a clear driving history and am not writing this out of spite of being caught by one of these cameras.

The road toll in NSW had hardly changed since the warning signs and markings were removed from speed cameras late last year. However, the number of fines issued has skyrocketed; according to the data from Revenue NSW for the first 3 months of this year the number of fines issued by mobile speed cameras for exceed speed by less than 10km/h was a staggering 71,932. Compare this to the same offence issued by mobile speed cameras for over the past 3 years on average equates to just 2989 fines for the same period of 2018-2020. Correspondingly revenue generated by these cameras for the offence of exceed speed by less than 10km/h was \$9,555,302 – a massive increase of the average amount generated for the same offence over the same period over the past 3 years of \$371,322. It is no surprise then that the Hon Wes Feng, MLC was recently quoted referring to these mobile speed cameras as “rivers of gold.” – 9news.com.au 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021. Furthermore, mobile speed cameras are often colloquially referred to as “flash for cash” typically amongst the trucking community.

In comparison to fines issued and revenue generated, the change in the road toll is a drop in the ocean. The number of people killed on NSW roads for the first 6 months of this year – up until 6<sup>th</sup> July is actually more than the same period last year – 143 vs 137 for 2020.

It is clear the NSW Government is cashing in on catching unsuspecting motorists off guard and taxing them on a technicality – a couple of kilometres over the speed limit. Perhaps they missed a speed sign or simply keeping up with the flow of traffic. Doesn't matter, instead of reminding these motorists what the speed limit is with a sign in front of the camera. These motorists will simply be taxed to the tune of \$114.

When originally introduced, with their warning signs and vehicle markings. Mobile speed cameras were meant to highlight known black spots and dangerous sections of road and encourage motorists to slow down in these areas. Since the signs have been removed what is being done to remind motorists to slow down? I have personally seen a mobile speed camera almost hidden from view on Freemans Drive, Cooranbong – where is the road safety message? There isn't one.

The fact that these mobile cameras are outsourced to a third party to operate, alone demonstrates that the NSW Government is not committed to road safety. Mobile speed cameras do not detect mobile phone use, unregistered vehicles, seat belt use, drug and alcohol affected drivers or driver fatigue. Yet the NSW Government has ordered that mobile speed cameras triple their operating hours.

Anti-speed propaganda states that “speeding contributes to approximately 41% of road fatalities”. What is being done about the other 60% of fatalities? Marked highway patrol cars can detect mobile phone use, unregistered vehicles, seat belt use, drug and alcohol affected drivers, driver fatigue and of course, speeding. If the government was truly serious about road safety, then it would take a more rounded approach and examine measures that could reduce other risky behaviour on our roads instead of focusing on the cash cow of low range speed enforcement that mobile speed cameras has become.

I hope that my input helps in developing a meaningful strategy for road safety going forward.

Kind Regards,

Aaron Gibson.