

**Submission
No 1454**

MOBILE SPEED CAMERA ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS IN NSW

Name: Mr Benjamin Reynolds

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I would like to make a submission to the committee with regards to recent changes regarding the use of warning signs in the vicinity of speed cameras. I write with over 34 years of driving experience within the Sydney metropolitan region and also as a bicycle commuter who rides on average 200km a week on Sydney's road and cycleways.

I strongly believe that bringing back warning signs would be a mistake. The significant increase in revenue collected by these cameras since the warning signs have been removed is testament to how many speeding drivers have been getting away with exceeding the speed limit. As a motorist I constantly see speeding vehicles slow down at the sight of a warning sign and then speed up again once they are passed the camera.

In recent years I have observed that exceeding the limit has become the norm amongst drivers in Sydney. It is my belief that this makes conventional policing impossible – if you have multiple vehicles exceeding the speed limit which vehicle does a police officer apprehend? The answer is none of them. Instead you move on until you find a lone driver/vehicle that stands out from the crowd. The only way to counter this is to have a camera that can capture multiple offenders.

I am tired of hearing Peter Khoury of the National Roads and Motorists' Association, and others, screaming "revenue raising!". Quite simply if you are not offending you are not contributing to that revenue. As long as this revenue is being put back into road safety, it has got to be a good thing. The argument that cameras should only be placed in crash zones as a deterrent is rubbish. A crash can happen anywhere and excessive speed increases the probability of a collision occurring as well as contributing to the severity of the resulting collision.

As a cyclist I would like to bring to the committees' attention the failure of NSW safe passing laws for cyclists. Motorists passing at an unsafe distance is a daily occurrence for cyclists. I have never seen a motorist apprehended for this offence, and do not know anyone who has ever heard of a fine for this offence. I appreciate that this is a difficult offence to police. However, what I can tell you with complete conviction is that being passed at an unsafe distance by a motorist doing the speed limit is a lot less scary than being passed by a motorist exceeding the speed limit as any distance! For the sake of all road users the drivers of Sydney need to be reigned in.

Thankyou for the opportunity to lodge my submission.