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**Correspondence and
inquiries to:**

Economic Development
Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Tel: (07) 3406 7486

Fax: (07) 3406 7070

MEDIA RELEASE

Committee supports fixed speed camera changes

SCHOOL zones receiving fixed speed cameras and a reward for safe driving are two of the recommendations from a Queensland parliamentary inquiry.

The Economic Development Committee today released its report for its inquiry into the road safety benefits of fixed speed cameras.

Committee Chair, Mr Evan Moorhead MP, said the Committee supports the use of fixed speed cameras in Queensland based on their positive impacts on road safety.

“Speeding drivers are a major cause of death and injury on Queensland roads, with speed being a factor in more than 20 per cent of road crashes,” Mr Moorhead said.

“Speed cameras save lives and reduce the cost of road trauma on the community. Research provided to the Committee shows that for every dollar spent on fixed speed cameras, the community saves \$2.40 or more in road trauma costs, such as hospitalisation and lost income.”

The Committee recommends that fixed speed cameras should be considered for school zones that meet certain criteria.

“The Committee sees a need to change the guidelines so that fixed speed cameras can be deployed on a road of less than 60 km/h, particularly near schools and kindergartens,” Mr Moorhead said.

The Committee found that the Government needs to better communicate with the public about speed cameras.

“While a majority of Queenslanders support speed cameras, some in our community still perceive speed cameras as a ‘revenue raising’ measure. Many people are not aware that fines from camera detected offences don’t go to consolidated revenue but can only be spent on road safety and rehabilitation programs,” Mr Moorhead said.

The Committee has accepted a submission from RACQ calling for the creation of a website detailing the location of fixed speed cameras and the crash statistics or crash risk that justifies the cameras.

“The Government should ensure that the public have access to the evidence that supports the fixed speed camera program. Greater public acceptance of fixed speed cameras can only help in reducing speeding in Queensland,” Mr Moorhead said.

The Queensland Government must respond to the Committee’s recommendations within six months.

The report is available online at www.parliament.qld.gov.au/edc or from the committee secretariat on (07) 3406 7486.

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For further information contact: Evan Moorhead MP, Chair, Economic Development Committee (Ph: 3200 3477)