

Economic Development Committee

Inquiry into the road safety benefits of fixed speed cameras

Submission 5

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Speed enforcement:

Fixed speed cameras should only be used in dangerous places and should be well signed. If the camera is hidden then the potential for loss of life is increased as a potential offender who may or may not realise that he is speeding in a dangerous place will be unaware of just how dangerous this place is. A speeding ticket sent to a dead person will never be paid.

Fixed speed cameras:

As a regular traveller through the camera a Burpengary I have noticed that it actually seems to cause traffic congestion as many slow to 90 or 80 to make absolutely sure they are under 100 thereby causing a amplifying concertina effect that often ends up in stop/go for several kilometres before it. Fixed cameras should be used in front of all schools, before the entrance to dangerous corners or ranges and in small towns that where the CBD is on a major highway e.g. Tiaro, Childers, Gin Gin etc. Cameras should be used to save lives not raise money. If a camera is making a lot of revenue then it is in the wrong place as it is being ignored and not slowing traffic or the limit is too low.

New technology:

The paranoia of "speed kills" is making driving more and more dangerous. Too many drivers are spending more time looking at their instruments than at the road ahead. Most of Queensland has thin roads with occasional passing zones and I have observed over the last few years that there is becoming a tendency for overtaking vehicles to spend extra time on the wrong side of the road rather than accelerate and shorten that time. The concept that "if you are under the speed limit you are safe" is extremely dangerous as it is quite difficult to have a head on crash if neither you nor the other vehicle are on the wrong side of the road. Queensland is a very large state and while it is densely populated in the south east corner the rest is quite open. Fatigue due to travelling long distances is a problem in regional areas. Legislation and policy for different zones should possibly be considered.

Comments:

Speeding is going faster than is safe for the conditions NOT going faster than a number on a sign. Just because the sign says 100 does not mean it is safe to do that speed during a rain storm or in fog but many drivers are convinced it is due to the messages on the media. Conversely, accelerating to 110 in a 100 zone while overtaking is much safer than staying on the wrong side of the road for an extra few seconds with oncoming traffic. One of the skills necessary for safe operation of a motor vehicle is judgement. If this is overridden by flawed legislation then the results will always be tragic.