

Economic Development Committee

Inquiry into the road safety benefits of fixed
speed cameras

Submission 7

Alistair MacLennan

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Name: Josh
Email: [REDACTED]
State: QLD
Postcode: 4207

Speed enforcement:

The role of speed cameras should be to cut down on fatalities and crashes. Unfortunately, they basically fail to do so. Due to their constant position, and the fact that they are signed, produces a domino braking effect as people go passed, then a domino speeding up effect after the camera. Everyone knows they are there, and slow down to well under the speed limit to go past them. This would most likely cause more crashes due to people following by unsafe distances, and producing many more nose to tail accidents.

Fixed speed cameras:

As above, they dont decrease the crash risk. A speed camera cant stop a crash. It cant prevent a crash. It cant change peoples driving behaviour. Criteria should be based on actual fact, not just placed somewhere that grabs headlines and makes the government look like they are doing something for the news. A speed camera on a 3 lane highway where the speed limit is 100 is a bit of a joke. The amount of crashes that actually occur in periods of traffic doing the speed limit or over, and not in peak times where most accidents happen, is relatively small. Someone doing 108km/h on a triple carriageway is not more dangerous than someone doing 65 in a 60 zone to beat a red light. Place cameras in high crash areas, where people speeding results in actual crashes. Intersections, sets of lights, and coming into and exiting roundabouts would be of much better use. Speed cameras are more suited to specific road environments, as I have outlined above. Placing a speed camera in a "Black spot" that has just had millions of dollars spent on it to make it safer is not going to save a life.

New technology:

I dont think it will lead to excessive monitoring of peoples speed. Police are there to enforce our speed, and it is our duty to follow the rules. I have a slight problem with this question (7), as I dont think excessive speed is the problem in most cases. Speed will have an impact on how a crash ends up, but it isnt the cause of the crash itself. The fact that a car was doing 115km/h and hit a gaurd rail after having a micro sleep, isnt exactly caused by the speed part, but is sensationalised to portray this. The speed camera or any other device would/will not stop any accidents. With fixed speed cameras, I have no idea how they are meant to reduce crashes. The people getting snapped by them are the people speeding regardless. They didnt slow down for the camera, they wont slow down for an orange light, and they dont care if any one is in there way. A speed camera wont slow them down, because if they worked, noone would get caught.

Comments:

Im not against speed cameras at all, and I thank you for allowing QLD to have a say. I think there are more important things out there that need addressing to curb our crash rates. Lowering the BAC limit is good, proper driver training starting in high school would be a good step, including practical defensive driving and car control. There are places that teach you this, and are worth their weight in gold. Opening up more areas in which "hoons" can participate in more activities to keep it off the street, and compulsory testing over a certain age. Proper sentencing of repeat offenders with driving bans/drink driving/excessive speed would also help a lot. Josh