

Economic Development Committee

Inquiry into the road safety benefits of fixed
speed cameras

Submission 12

Alistair MacLennan

From: webmaster@parliament.qld.gov.au
Sent: Wednesday, 17 March 2010 8:16 AM
To: Economic Development Committee
Subject: ONLINE SUBMISSION - Road safety benefits
ONLINE SUBMISSION - Road safety benefits

Name: Nick Heywood

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

City: WINDSOR

State: QLD

Postcode: 4030

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Speed enforcement:

1. They should exist to promote safety, NOT revenue raising. If speed cameras are to be installed in a given location, it is my opinion that such locations should be areas where there is a history of speeding-related accidents. The point is to save lives, not raise revenue. And if an accident blackspot is not so-named due to speeding, there are other methods which should be considered to reduce the road toll. 2. No. All it does is tell the motorist that there is a speed camera ahead, and in my experience this leads to sudden braking just before the camera itself - this is irrespective of whether the motorist is speeding or not. I have witnessed (several times) traffic moving at or just above the speed limit before a camera, only for the cars to slow quickly (and dangerously) to WELL BELOW the speed limit to avoid having their picture taken and getting a fine. That does not make it a safer stretch of road.

Fixed speed cameras:

3. They change driver behaviour a bit because people are aware of them. But I don't think it reduces crash risk one bit - see response to point 2 above. 4. See point 1. Are all the questions going to be this repetitive? 5. Of course. Where it is known that motorists speed and cause accidents, I don't have a problem with erecting speed cameras. The message to the motorist should be, as always "we are concerned for your safety and have put this camera in this particular blackspot because data has told us that right here, speed is a significant contributing factor to accidents". And nothing else.

New technology:

6. It's not about technology at all. At the end of the day, a speed camera does what it does. New technology might improve how it goes about its day, but I can't see how it can make it "better" than it already is. Excessive monitoring would only be a problem if speed cameras started popping up everywhere with no actual reason to be there. Then it's definitely monitoring, and definitely excessive. 7. I'm sure there are, but I'm not the expert. If you want to reduce motor vehicle accidents you only need to look at what actually causes them and analyse the data. I'd wager that most of the time, it's not speed that causes an accident - it's the driver not paying attention. Education would be a good start; more driver training for all drivers irrespective of age. However I don't think it's a problem that can be easily fixed. Your challenge is to find ways to do it, and not by simply shoving up another speed camera. Catching my grandmother at 5km/h over the limit when she's on the way to bowls does not reduce accidents. 8. Yes - BE HONEST. Speed cameras are not about reducing the road toll. Analysis has shown, in countries all over the world, that the erection of a speed camera does not necessarily reduce anything apart from the amount of money in the motorist's pocket. Admit that it's about raising revenue and stop kidding yourselves that it's saving lives. But that then makes it hard to convince Joe Public that it's a good idea for the speed camera to be there. We're not stupid, you know.