

Economic Development Committee

Inquiry into the road safety benefits of fixed  
speed cameras

Submission 22



**Australian  
Privacy  
Foundation**

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## Submission to the Queensland Parliamentary Economic Development Committee regarding the inquiry into the road safety benefits of fixed speed cameras in Queensland

### Submission by the Australian Privacy Foundation

#### Privacy – an overlooked issue

1. We value this opportunity to provide input on the inquiry into the road safety benefits of fixed speed cameras in Queensland.
2. We recognise that privacy is a peripheral issue to the road safety aspects of the inquiry.
3. However, bearing in mind that the proposal involves the placement of surveillance cameras in public places, we are surprised and disappointed to note that privacy is not considered at all in the Issues Paper.
4. Indeed, it is our view that the privacy impact of the proposal ought to have been included amongst the inquiry's terms of reference.
5. In light of the fact that, privacy is a fundamental human right established through international law, and since the proposal will have a negative impact on that right, **we call upon the Economic Development Committee to perform a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) prior to proceeding with the proposal.**
6. One important step in such an exercise is to clearly define what the data collected by the cameras may be used for, by whom the data may be used, and what steps will be taken to ensure the data is only used for those persons and for those purposes. Otherwise, the risk for 'function creep' may outweigh any positives of the cameras.
7. However, the PIA should not only highlight the risks of actual privacy breaches, but also indirect consequences of people being subjected to this form of constant surveillance.

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## Australian Privacy Foundation

### Background Information

The Australian Privacy Foundation (APF) is the primary national association dedicated to protecting the privacy rights of Australians. The Foundation aims to focus public attention on emerging issues that pose a threat to the freedom and privacy of Australians. The Foundation has led the fight to defend the right of individuals to control their personal information and to be free of excessive intrusions.

The APF's primary activity is analysis of the privacy impact of systems and proposals for new systems. It makes frequent submissions to parliamentary committees and government agencies. It publishes information on privacy laws and privacy issues. It provides continual background briefings to the media on privacy-related matters.

Where possible, the APF cooperates with and supports privacy oversight agencies, but it is entirely independent of the agencies that administer privacy legislation, and regrettably often finds it necessary to be critical of their performance.

When necessary, the APF conducts campaigns for or against specific proposals. It works with civil liberties councils, consumer organisations, professional associations and other community groups as appropriate to the circumstances. The Privacy Foundation is also an active participant in Privacy International, the world-wide privacy protection network.

The APF's Board comprises professionals who bring to their work deep experience in privacy, information technology and the law.

The Board is supported by a Patron (Sir Zelman Cowen), and an Advisory Panel of eminent citizens, including former judges, former Ministers of the Crown, and a former Prime Minister.

The following pages provide access to information about the APF:

- Policies <http://www.privacy.org.au/Papers/>
- Resources <http://www.privacy.org.au/Resources/>
- Media <http://www.privacy.org.au/Media/>
- Current Board Members <http://www.privacy.org.au/About/Contacts.html>
- Patron and Advisory Panel <http://www.privacy.org.au/About/AdvisoryPanel.html>

The following pages provide outlines of several campaigns the APF has conducted:

- The Australia Card (1985-87)  
<http://www.privacy.org.au/About/Formation.html>
- CreditReporting (1988-90)  
<http://www.privacy.org.au/Campaigns/CreditRpting/>
- The Access Card (2006-07)  
[http://www.privacy.org.au/Campaigns/ID\\_cards/HSAC.html](http://www.privacy.org.au/Campaigns/ID_cards/HSAC.html)
- The Media (2007-)  
<http://www.privacy.org.au/Campaigns/Media/>