

Economic Development Committee

Inquiry into the road safety benefits of fixed
speed cameras

Submission 25

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Subject: ONLINE SUBMISSION - Road safety benefits

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Speed enforcement:

1) I don't believe there is a significant body of proof to show that speed cameras increase road safety. Therefore I don't believe that policing speed limits with cameras is an effective method of reducing road deaths and therefore there is no appropriate role for fixed speed cameras in Queensland. 2) There is no such thing as a safer road speed environment. To determine a 'safe' road speed depends on many factors, the key factor being the ability and experience of the driver.

Fixed speed cameras:

3) There is no doubt that strong evidence exists to show that where drivers are aware of speed cameras, that drivers are more likely to comply with the speed limit. However, I don't believe there is strong evidence for speed cameras to reduce crash risks on all types of road and in all conditions. 4) The criteria should be determined from research that looks at a broad cross-section of crash risks and crash reduction across the world. 5) Research is required to determine this.

New technology:

6) Yes. Any new technology should be directly related to reducing crash risks. 7) A more effective investment in technology is the use of red-light cameras at traffic lights and level crossings. However there is little evidence to suggest that speed is related to crash risk. 8) If speed was directly proportional to crash risk, then why are emergency response drivers that exceed the speed limit have a disproportionate level of crash risk (generally low) compared to other drivers. The key with improving road safety and decreasing crash risk lies in educations. Why not invest in an organisation that promotes advanced driving. The model in the UK shows this is an effective method of reducing crash risk, so much so, that Insurance companies offer a discount. The two organisations in question that promote advanced driving education in the UK are RoSPA and Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM). The IAM only costs a few hundred pounds to join and take the test. Training is free.

Comments:

Consider a scheme such as the Institute of Advanced Motorists that is run in the UK. I trained as a motorcycle instructor (known as observers) and would strongly support a scheme here to improve road safety. Concentrating on speed is not the answer, Improved driver training is the most effective solution. The training of emergency response drivers (police, ambulance, firemen) shows very strong evidence of this.