

Economic Development Committee

Inquiry into the road safety benefits of fixed
speed cameras

Submission 37

27th April, 2010

Your Ref: DW:4559670
Our Ref: LBM:jl
Contact: Laetitia Bailey-Mortimer T: 3829-8739

Mr Evan Moorhead
Economic Development Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Moorhead

RE: Invitation to lodge a submission for the inquiry into road safety benefits of fixed speed cameras in Queensland.

Thank you for your letter of 11th March 2010 inviting submissions to the Economic Development Committee for the Inquiry into the road safety benefits of fixed speed cameras.

We note the following issues with regard to the use of fixed speed cameras in Queensland:

Issue 1 – What is the appropriate role for fixed speed cameras in enforcing speed limits in Queensland?

- Due to the need to process the film and assess the images, there is often a long lag time between a driver committing an offence and receiving the infringement notice imposing the consequence of that offence. This leads to the driver not associating the offence with the consequence but rather seeing it as 'revenue raising'. The introduction of digital cameras should overcome this 'time lag'.
- When drivers pass the camera site, they may be inclined to believe that they are 'safe' from enforcement of the limit. This belief leads to a number of drivers slowing to the regulated speed through the camera site and then accelerating to an unacceptably high speed after it.

Issue 2 – Does prominent speed camera signage promote a safer speed environment?

- "Speed Camera Ahead" signs, as seen on highways in New South Wales, may be useful deterrents to excessive speed through a short section of roadway. This may be beneficial in locations that have a history of speed related crashes. However, for long sections of roadway, signs stating "Speed Cameras Used In This Area" may be more effective as there is a less defined point where drivers may believe that they are 'safe' from enforcement.

Issue 3 – How effective are the existing fixed speed camera in decreasing crash risks and changing driver behaviour in Queensland?

- Council has no data on this issue to comment.

Issue 4 – What criteria should be used to select fixed speed camera sites?

- High crash rate sections of highway. The use of point to point cameras may be more effective than single point cameras.
- High crash signalised intersections combined with red light cameras.

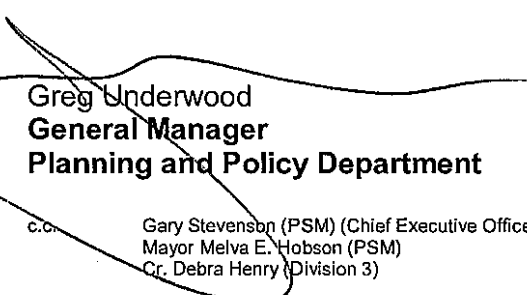
Issue 5 – Are fixed speed cameras more suited to specific road environments?

- As above High crash sections of highways with preference for point to point cameras.
- High crash signalised intersections as an addition to red light cameras.

However, higher levels of general compliance with the road rules is obtained through a highly visible police presence on the roads as drivers perceive the chances of enforcement to be high.

Should you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact Laetitia Bailey-Mortimer on telephone 3829-8739.

Yours sincerely


Greg Underwood
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Cr. Debra Henry (Division 3)