

Economic Development Committee

Inquiry into the road safety benefits of fixed  
speed cameras

Submission 39

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[REDACTED]  
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The Research Director  
Economic Development Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

**Re: Enquiry into the road safety benefits of fixed speed cameras.**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to make a submission in regards to the enquiry mentioned above.

In the brief, it states that 'A study of an existing fixed speed camera program has provided evidence of safety benefits. An evaluation of the fixed speed cameras placed in the Victorian Domain Tunnel found that both the number of drivers speeding and the average speed of vehicles in the tunnel fell'.

I believe that during the enquiry this statement should be tested. The fact that speed was reduced in the Victorian studies is easy to prove and I wouldn't dispute it, but it does not mention any evidence that this also reduced the occurrence of accidents. If there was no drop in the accident rates over this time period, it proves that speed reduction does not have an effect on road safety.

I would challenge the Economic Development Committee to take a graph of the Queensland road toll for each year, and superimpose the revenue collected for each year from speeding enforcement. The road toll was at its highest in the 1970s, dropped consistently until the 1990s, and has remained reasonably flat for the last decade or so. On the other hand, the revenue collected has risen linearly and steeply since the introduction of speed cameras in the 1990s.

Anyone with basic statistical analysis skills will know from looking at these graphs that there is no correlation between the two sets of data. Rather it is proof that increased speeding enforcement has no effect on road deaths.

I am concerned that the enquiry is being conducted by the Economic Development Committee, and not a committee aligned with road safety. This indicates that the result will be another incorrect, self-serving conclusion [speed kills, fine more people, reduce deaths].

I write this letter anyway in the hope that I can find a person who has the integrity to look at the facts, and act on those, rather than tow the old, ineffective line that 'every K over is a killer'. It is not until then that the real issues such as driver skills can be addressed for the benefit of the state.

Sincerely,

Nathan Thorne