

Economic Development Committee

Inquiry into the road safety benefits of fixed
speed cameras

Submission 40

Hon Michael Wright MP
Member for Lee



**Government
of South Australia**

Minister for Police
Minister for
Emergency Services
Minister for
Recreation, Sport and Racing

Level 8, Terrace Towers
1/8 North Terrace
Adelaide SA 5000

GPO Box 464
Adelaide SA 5001
DX 336
minister.wright@sa.gov.au

Tel 08 8303 2101
Fax 08 8303 2042

REFERENCE:
10SF00024/POL 10/00763
MLO 1054/10



Ms Lyndal Bates
Economic Development Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Ms Bates

I refer to correspondence from Mr Evan Moorehead MP, Chair of the Economic Development Committee, inviting for submissions to an inquiry into the road safety benefits of fixed speed cameras in Queensland.

Please find enclosed, a contribution of information provided by the Commissioner of Police for South Australia.

I wish the Committee every success in relation to its endeavours with regard to this important road safety issue.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Wright'.

Michael Wright MP
MINISTER FOR POLICE

415 / 2010

Enc.

Economic Development Committee, Parliament House, George Street, Brisbane, Queensland, 4000.

Inquiry into the road safety benefits of fixed speed cameras in Queensland

Traffic safety (speed) cameras deployed in South Australia detect speeding offences, capture images and related data used in the promulgation of expiation notices subsequently sent to offenders.

The South Australian Road Safety Strategy 2003-2010 promotes safer driving using measures that include use of fixed speed cameras positioned at high risk locations. Fixed site traffic safety cameras are one of a number of speed detection technologies deployed and in use in SA. These include mobile traffic safety cameras, mobile radar fitted to certain police vehicles, hand held laser and radar. A point to point speed detection site is due to commence this year detecting average speed between two fixed points of highway and monitored by automated number plate recognition cameras.

Fixed traffic safety speed and red light cameras are purchased by the Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure (DTEI) to be deployed in locations identified as potential traffic accident danger spots to promote safer driving. Research in relation to site selection is undertaken by DTEI who provide South Australia Police (SAPOL) with a list of sites in priority order, from which SAPOL conducts a risk assessment relating to operational capability to provide support to any assets located at the nominated sites. Proposed sites may be rejected at this stage due to reasons including safe site access for testing and maintenance.

Cameras detect speeding offences, capture images and related data used in the promulgation of expiation notices subsequently sent to offenders.

Site selection, purchase, acquisition, site infrastructure and installation of traffic safety (speed) cameras are the responsibility of DTEI.

DTEI use an open tender process for purchase of new cameras. Each new batch of cameras purchased may be from a different vendor, and of a different make and model. This results in multiple support arrangements with vendors and repairers and the need for a greater investment in spare parts, testing apparatus, technical training for staff and various back office support solutions.

At the completion of a testing and commissioning process fixed cameras become SAPOL assets. This occurs in a formal transfer of assets from DTEI to SAPOL. Cameras are subsequently owned, maintained and managed by SAPOL. Cameras are operated in accordance with SAPOL policy.

Currently in South Australia (at March 2010) there are 72 cameras and all are capable of red light/speed detection. These comprise 13 wet film and 59 digital. That number will increase to 104 within the next three years.

Installation, calibration, certification, testing and deployment of new cameras is a significant exercise that can take months to complete. Rigorous quality assurance and appropriate certification are essential for systems integrity and to aid successful prosecution of offences.

All maintenance and calibration of fixed traffic safety cameras is conducted in SAPOL facilities in accordance with Australian Standard 17025. Testing and calibration is conducted in accordance with legislative requirements.

The links between excessive speed and road safety are complex and speed that is excessive is an important factor in road crashes. Strategies aimed at speed reduction are important as vehicle speed affects both the risk of a crash occurring and the severity of any resultant injuries.

COMMISSIONER OF POLICE

March 2010