Phil Browne

23 November 2007

The Research Director
Travelsafe Committee
Parliament House, George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Public
Submission - INQUIRY INTO AUTOMATIC NUMBER PLATE RECOGNITION TECHNOLOGY

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I have previously read 2 separate press articles outlining the benefits of ANPR being used interstate and overseas, and was impressed by the benefits ANPR can offer.

· The Travelsafe Issues Paper outlines the experience of ANPR use in the UK. UK Police operating on ANPR teams had a tenfold arrest rate, recovered stolen goods, property and vehicles, and seized drugs and weapons. This speaks volumes about the potential benefit of ANPR to Qld.

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ANPR should be further investigated for use in Qld at both fixed and mobile sites.

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It should be considered setting up ANPR sites in conjunction with RBT and also drug testing sites to benefit from economies of scale.

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Is it feasible/possible to have fixed ANPR cameras in Police cars (looking through windscreen) so that number plates can be scanned the entire time the car is on the road? Currently Police do manual checks of number plates on cars (e.g. while stopped at red lights), but this would allow a much higher detection rate as many more number plates could be scanned and checked against the data base.

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The Travelsafe Committee should seek further advice and input from the authorities already using ANPR in other Australian states and ESPECIALLY THE UK on how best to use ANPR in Qld.

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Provided the costs do not outweigh the benefits, I fully support the use of ANPR in Qld.

Sincerely

Phil Brown

SUBMISSION FROM

Name : phil browne

SUBMISSION

The efficacy of ANPR technology for road safety applications:
see below

Additional comments:
There is an article in The Courier Mail about an Australian designed concept Police patrol car which uses a roof mounted ANPR camera. Some of the article is below. 'An automatic number plate recognition camera on the roof is capable of detecting and reading the licence plates of passing vehicles. Queensland Police patrolling the states' motorways could use the camera to pinpoint the licence plate of a wanted vehicle out of hundreds of cars. A recent trial of the technology in Los Angeles found that the camera is capable of scanning 5000 to 8000 cars in a 10-hour session. It can be used for a variety of traffic policing applications including identifying speed violations by calculating the time a vehicle takes to travel between two points, identifying unregistered vehicles, and the tracking of vehicles and drivers subject to traffic restrictions such as provisional licence holders.' The full article is available from http://www.news.com.au/couriermail/story/0,23739,22955879-3102,00.html