Sent: Thursday, 17 January 2008
To: Travel Safe Committee
Subject: Online Submission - Automatic Number Plate Recognition technology

SUBMISSION FROM
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SUBMISSION

The efficacy of ANPR technology for road safety applications:
This technology is used in other counties, with many associated faults. Firstly the large expense of not only the purchasing of the technology but also with its associated running cost, there is also the use of the system, the automatic assumption made by many security services that their information is correct has often been found to be misplaced, databases between different departments are often incorrectly updated by the various bodies who are meant to carry this most basic of service. Then there is the data storage and access by these bodies, who will carry this out checks to ensure this data is not misused as we can not rely on current security considerations.How will data from this system be stored, for what amount of time ? How many people will be incorrectly charged or penalised (like the current speed camera system where you may still get a fine even if you were not driving).

Potential costs and benefits:
Potential costs will be significantly higher than any real return without the introduction of draconian measures and charging. A better result would be achieved by increasing the standards of driver training, more sensible policing policy in respect to infringements. The complete over provisioning of signage and incorrect speed. It is ridiculous to expect people to be able to drive in a sensible manor when a large percentage of time is spent looking at signage and speedo readings, no-wonder there are so many accidents caused by incorrect distance judgments and suchlike. add to this he poor standard of driving in Queensland and long distances, one we cant do anything about , the other we can.

Whether ANPR-enabled intercept teams should be used for traffic enforcement in Queensland, including examination of existing applications:
This is a ridiculous suggestion that sounds like it has been put forward by a very competent sales team in conjunction with a police department who is interested in new 'cutting edge' toys and a government who sees it as another way of raising substantial amounts of revenue.In other countries the reliance on database integrity and correctness has proved to be a serious shortfall meaning that judgments have been made on seriously compromised information that have been proved to be incorrect in far to many cases. Full openness of information is a requisite as these systems will have serious affects on people it 'apprehends' whether they be guilty or innocent.

Other opportunities and considerations for its use by Queensland Government agencies to promote road safety:
Why bother - just grab the money thats what its really for. If you were really serious about road safety you would start teaching driving skills at school, take an active use of resources to educate about the dangers of excessive speed, drink/drug driving, poor attention to what is going on around you. These resources would be far less expensive and would save lives! Just ask a young person in a wheelchair to explain how he ended up there, that they will listen to them. let him/her explain how it changed their life, not some person with a computer screen and a camera handing out fines!

Additional comments:
I am unfortunately not amazed that the whole of this is directed towards the purchase of a system that is expensive, unwealdy, has serious privacy considerations, why not use the catch all- it will stop terrorism. I am sure That common sense will not be used as this whole thing seems squarely aimed at justifying the purchase of this equipment. David Ingerson IT & Systems Specialist who drives over 80,000Km most years on Queensland roads and has driven extensively in other countries.