




Speech By
Christopher Whiting

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 15 September 2016

TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE: REPORT, MOTION TO TAKE NOTE

 **Mr WHITING** (Murrumba—ALP) (11.48 am): I rise to speak to the report of the Transportation and Utilities Committee on its inquiry into Auditor-General report to parliament No. 2 of 2015-16, *Road safety—traffic cameras*. I would like to start by commending the report, the Department of Transport and Main Roads, the Queensland Police Service and the minister. I think that this report shows that we can do better at making sure that our roads are safer and improve our Camera Detected Offence Program. I found this report useful and illuminating. It is a good snapshot of what we are doing and what we can do. On page 19 the committee recommended—

... that the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply; and the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services provide an update to Parliament about what strategies are being prioritised to address the disparity between the number of offences detected by the Camera Detected Offence Program and the number of offences that can be proceeded with.

We should keep that mind when talking about this report. The areas in which we can do better are very clearly specified within the report. The report states that nine of the 17 recommendations are being proceeded with. An update of the report that comes to parliament shows that there has been great progress. What we can take from this is to make sure that we implement all 17 of those recommendations.

One of the things that we can implement to improve things is the greater use of covert vehicles, including after hours. Page 11 of the report states that the use of covert vehicles is more effective than the use of overt ones, that is, marked and visible vehicles. In addition, the QPS could use covert deployments to their full potential by increasing their hours of usage. For example, in 2014-15 they had approval for 30 per cent of mobile camera hours to be undertaken covertly, but they used only 16.3 per cent of those deployment hours covertly. We need to keep that in mind. On page 12 the report talks about how we can better analyse data or verify the data collected in a quicker manner and use it fully. Instead of using snap judgement or anecdotal evidence, we use the data collected. That is a really important part of improving things.

The report recommends that the Queensland Police Service and Main Roads could work together to make sure that police use all the approved sites. Page 13 of the report states that the QPS did not visit approximately one-third of those approved sites in any one year and one in seven sites were not visited over a three-year period. In 2013-14, two per cent of the available sites accounted for 18.1 per cent of all deployments. Therefore, some sites are being used more frequently than the scheduling suggested they would. I think that we can all take that on board as well. The issue of obscured numberplates has been dealt with.

There is no doubt that this does save lives. Interestingly, something that I picked up from the report—and perhaps this is hindering the police—is the need to dispel the perception of revenue raising. We know that if we fully apply all the schedules and all the criteria for mobile camera sites, covert and overt, it will work better and more offences will be detected. This is not necessarily about revenue raising; it is about making sure that we save lives. Certainly I would like to see us battle the perception of revenue raising, because we need to fully implement these recommendations.

I know that this does save lives. A number of years ago, I had a very big wake-up call when the Queensland police encouraged me to use an alternate kind of transport for a while. I had a huge wake-up call and things changed for me. I got married, I lost my father, I had children and I became a reformed lead foot. A big part of that was CDOP. I thank them for giving me that big wake-up call, which changed my attitude and my behaviour. I thoroughly support this program. I recommend that all people support it and recognise how it saves lives.