




Speech By
Rob Molhoek

MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT

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TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE: REPORT, MOTION TO TAKE NOTE

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (11.43 am): I rise to speak with regard to the report of the Transportation and Utilities Committee on its inquiry into Auditor-General report to parliament 2: 2015-16 *Road safety—traffic cameras*. I wish to highlight a number of concerns that came from the review and the public briefing. I want to start at the end of the report where committee recommendation 1 is 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.

This is as a result of the statistics that came out of the review, which I want to highlight today. In the period 2014-15, in that full 12 months there were some 841,401 infringement notices issued across the state. This resulted in the issuing of some \$167 million in fines with an average amount per notice of \$198. What is interesting, however, is that in addition to these infringement notices there were some 135,000 additional notices that were not issued because the vehicles were not able to be identified by the Queensland Police Service due to poor numberplates and other factors. If one does the maths and looks at the gap between those fines issued and not paid, there were 161,616 people who did not pay. Out of the 841,000 notices issued, 161,000 people did not pay and a further 135,000 notices were never issued, which means that some 30 per cent of offences detected by the cameras either did not receive a notice, they received a notice and chose not to pay, or a notice was sent but they were not able to detect the driver or the owner of the vehicle.

The focus of the speed camera program is to address the issue of safety, in particular with reference to slowing down drivers in respect of speeding. For the last 10 years there have been some 50 fatalities a year that are directly related to speeding offences and, on average, some 500 hospitalisations a year. That is about 20 per cent of all fatalities within Queensland. The concern that the committee identified and the concern that I wish to draw to the attention of the House today is the gap. The gap is simply this: for every 70,000 notices issued there are a further 30,000 that should have been issued or were issued with no result in a payment or no detection of an offender. What it really highlights is the need for not just a significant covert operation across the state, but the need for more overt operations on behalf of the Queensland Police Service in actually identifying those many drivers out there who are unlicensed or driving unregistered vehicles. What adds further concern to this particular issue is the fact that, when there was an analysis done of the number of fatalities, it was identified that in more than 50 per cent of those incidents either the driver at the time was unlicensed or the vehicle was unregistered. This is a significant cause for concern and why the committee made the recommendation that the relevant ministers be asked to report back to the House on what can be done to improve the efficiency of both our covert and overt speed detection activities across the state.

In closing, I pass on my thanks to the committee and the secretariat that supported us through this process. There were a number of hearings. We heard from officers from the Department of Transport and Main Roads and also the Queensland Police Service and we are very grateful for their assistance.