




Speech By
Shane Knuth

MEMBER FOR HILL

Record of Proceedings, 26 October 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Hill Electorate, Speed Camera

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (6.19 pm): It is evident there is a problem with the unmanned trailer speed camera units being rolled out by TMR. One of these devices was installed in my electorate on the Atherton Malanda Road just outside Ozcare. My office has been bombarded with over 280 individual complaints, with over 478 fines issued during a 13-day period in September. This is purely a revenue-raising exercise with hundreds of thousands of dollars ripped out of a small community. One of these is a 70-year-old who is an OAM. He has never had a speeding fine in his life and drives every day to visit his wife in Ozcare. He now has multiple fines, may lose his licence and will not be able to regularly visit his sick wife. Another single mum and nurse, who works on a 24-hour roster and travels 43 kilometres to work at the emergency department, has received seven fines and is very fearful of losing her licence, her job, her house and is suffering from anxiety and depression because of this. Another single mum with three kids who works two jobs has been sent seven fines totalling \$3,000. Just today we were notified about another person who has multiple fines totalling \$10,000. We have hundreds of these similar stories.

In small regional areas we do not have the luxury of public transport running at frequent schedules so our vehicles are the only means of transport. There is no justification in placing these devices in small rural areas that do not have a high accident rate as a result of speeding. When I questioned the calibration of the speed camera the department issued the typical standard statement that the device was functioning correctly. However, this is not good enough. I have never seen this before where the majority is adamant they were not speeding. The sheer volume of the numbers of the multiple fines being reported raise some serious questions about this camera device. I call on the minister to provide hard evidence that the camera was tested for accuracy immediately before, during and at the end of its deployment. I also call for detail on what specific speed-related crashes have occurred in this particular 60-kilometre zone in the past five years, who deployed the camera and what are their qualifications? Finally, I ask the department to provide evidence that where this trailer camera was positioned was in accordance with the Queensland government policy guidelines.