




Speech By
Shane Knuth

MEMBER FOR HILL

Record of Proceedings, 13 February 2024

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Hill Electorate, Speed Cameras

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (2.36 pm): There are major problems with the TMR unmanned trailer speed camera units known as Harmony TS1 devices. It has been reported to my office that over 400 people were issued with more than 600 infringement notices from a device stationed along the Malanda Atherton Road in September. The majority firmly believe that the device was dodgy. I have written three letters to the office of the Minister for Transport outlining these issues. To date I have had zero response.

In November I met with the then minister and the acting director-general of TMR and again raised these issues with them. The then minister was shocked to learn that the device was at the location for a two-week period, with no explanations or reasons provided. The only assumption we can make is that it was to save transport costs to Acusensus, which is contracted by TMR to manage the devices and to raise revenue at each location. The Queensland Police Union boss, Ian Leavers, agreed by recently slamming the state government's controversial rollout of extra unmanned speed cameras across rural and regional parts of the state, saying they were about revenue raising and not safety.

Queenslanders have been put under severe financial strain and mental health stress because multiple infringement notices—up to 10 per person—were issued demanding payment. I lodged a right to information request with TMR for calibration certificates or any other documentation showing that these devices have been tested in the field. The RTI I received from TMR states—

I am satisfied that all reasonable steps have been undertaken to verify the existence of the documents identified in section 2 to 6 of your application. I consider these documents are non-existent.

The only document provided is the manufacturing certificate issued by Acusensus Australia. I table that document.

Tabled paper: Document, dated 19 April 2023, titled 'Certificate of Test of a Speed Measuring Device' [173](#).

During the meeting with the former minister and TMR I was informed that TMR do have in their possession documents showing that the devices were calibrated and tested at each location. When I asked to be provided with these documents I was informed that they could not be provided as they were the property of Acusensus Australia. Why, if these documents are in TMR's possession, are they not being provided through the RTI request?

There is a significant number of people contesting these fines in court who will be arguing these tickets are unlawful according to the traffic regulations and the TO(RUM) Act. Between TMR, the Office of State Revenue and SPER, the process for contesting these fines is deliberately confusing to force Queenslanders to give up. An example of this is a person who received three fines in the mail after the expiry date, giving her the option to contest in court or pay the fines. The debt was sent to SPER, which informed her she could opt to have the matter contested in court and the payments of the infringement

notice would be frozen until a court date was set. However, she was then informed by TMR that her licence was suspended. That should not happen, but, because two different agencies are involved, she is now left in the ridiculous situation of her licence being suspended before the matter goes to court.

The entire process of handling fines and contesting these fines between the three agencies is nothing short of a complete debacle. In closing, I demand the minister withdraw and refund all tickets from Harmony TS1 and remove all Harmony TS1s from Queensland roads until they comply with the government's own laws.