

2015

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

REVIEW OF AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT NO.1 OF 2014:

SPEED CAMERAS IN THE ACT

ACT GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Presented by
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Introduction and Background

1. An audit of speed cameras in the ACT was completed as part of the Auditor-General's 2013–14 performance audit program. The audit was intended to examine the effectiveness of the ACT Government's use of speed cameras, including an examination of whether:
 - there is the right number of speed cameras in the right places;
 - the cameras are effective in reducing speeding; and
 - the cameras are reliable.
2. The Auditor-General's Performance Audit Report – Speed Cameras in the ACT (the Audit Report) was tabled on 20 March 2014.
3. An ACT Government Position on the audit report was provided to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts on 28 November 2014. The Government Position agreed to all recommendations made in the audit report – with the exception of recommendation five which was noted. That recommendation called for the development and implementation of a “relatively large, network representative, speed monitoring system” in order to determine changes in the extent of speeding.
4. The Government Position noted that a program of speed surveys, on a large, network representative basis, is not presently resourced and resourcing such a program would need to be considered in the context of competing budget priorities.
5. It was acknowledged that existing speed surveys undertaken by the Territory and Municipal Services Directorate, can assist to identify the extent of speeding at specific locations but they don't provide a comprehensive picture of speeding across the network. Some information about self-reported patterns of speeding is also obtained through regular national policing surveys

The Standing Committee’s report

6. On 19 March 2015, Mr Brendan Smyth MLA presented the Standing Committee on Public Accounts’ report, *Review of Auditor-General’s Report No.1 of 2014: Speed Cameras in the ACT*. The Report makes 8 recommendations in relation to the Audit Report and on the implementation of the Report’s recommendations.

Government responses to recommendations

7. The Government’s responses to the Committee’s recommendations are set out in the table below.

Number	Recommendation	Short response	Comments
1	The Committee recommends that ACT Government agencies should ensure complete reporting with all compliance requirements as specified in the Annual Report Directions.	Agree	The Justice and Community Safety Directorate will comply with all relevant reporting requirements.
2	The Committee recommends that ACT Government directorates and agencies should ensure complete compliance in accordance with the reporting requirements as prescribed under Section C.5—Auditor-General and Ombudsman’s reports—of the 2013–14 Annual Report Directions.	Agree	As above

Number	Recommendation	Short response	Comments
3	<p>The Committee recommends that the ACT Government report to the ACT Legislative Assembly, by the last sitting day in October 2015, on the progress and effectiveness of the Government's implementation of the recommendations, made in Auditor-General's Report No. 1 of 2014: Speed Cameras in the ACT, that have been accepted either in-whole or in-part. This should include: (i) a summary of action to date, either completed or in progress (including milestones completed); and (ii) the proposed action (including timetable), for implementing recommendations (or parts thereof), where action has not yet commenced.</p>	<p>Agree</p>	<p>As above</p>

4	<p>The Committee recommends that the ACT Government table in the ACT Legislative Assembly, by the last sitting day in May 2015, the University of NSW's evaluation report on the existing ACT road safety camera program.</p>	<p>Agree</p>	<p>The Minister for Justice will table the University of NSW's (UNSW) report on the evaluation of the ACT road safety camera program during the May 2015 sittings of the ACT Legislative Assembly.</p>
5	<p>The Committee recommends that should the availability of the University of NSW evaluation report on the existing ACT road safety camera program be delayed beyond the last sitting day in May 2015, the Attorney-General should make a statement to the ACT Legislative Assembly providing an explanation for the delay.</p>	<p>Noted</p>	<p>The Minister for Justice now has portfolio responsibility for the road safety policy (including road safety cameras). As noted above, the Minister will table the report in the May 2015 sittings of the ACT Legislative Assembly.</p>

6	The Committee recommends that the ACT Government prioritise the finalisation of the development and implementation of an ACT Road Safety Speed Camera Strategy for the 2014–15 financial year.	Agree	The Minister for Justice will table an ACT road safety camera strategy, together with the report on the UNSW evaluation of the cameras during the May 2015 sittings of the ACT Legislative Assembly.
7	The Committee recommends that the ACT Government table in the ACT Legislative Assembly, by the last sitting day in August 2015, the ACT Road Safety Speed Camera Strategy.	Agree	As above
8	The Committee recommends that as a signatory to the National Road Safety Strategy 2011–2020, the ACT Government should inform the ACT Legislative Assembly, by the last sitting day in May 2015, of its position on the matter of hypothecation of revenue from speed enforcement activities directly back to road safety initiatives.	Agree	The Minister for Justice will inform the ACT Legislative Assembly of the Government’s position on hypothecation when the Strategy and Evaluation Report is tabled.

