



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES
Jo Clay MLA (Chair), Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy), Mark Parton MLA

Submission No 25 – Name Withheld

Inquiry into the impact of revised speed limits in Civic – Petitions 31-21 and 38-21

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INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF REVISED SPEED LIMITS IN CIVIC – PETITIONS 31-21 AND 38-21

Submission

from

[REDACTED]

Resident

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

13 October 2021

Summary

Page 2 and 3: **Introductory Statement**

Pages 3-15: **All Points of Reference, listed in order with responses from Access Canberra**

(photographs of Northbourne Ave with arrows and recommended signs for the area included in the text)

(Page 4 includes an electronic link to a petition I commenced)

Attached to this email:

Excel Document with comments from ACT residents regarding this issue from the petition I commenced which now has 1507 signatures to date.

INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF REVISED SPEED LIMITS IN CIVIC – PETITIONS 31-21 AND 38-21

To the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services,

My name is [REDACTED] I reside at [REDACTED] and work at [REDACTED]. As a resident living [REDACTED] for over twenty years, I wish to make a submission regarding the recent change to a 40km zone on Northbourne Ave, the impact of this change on the community, the way it was notified and the position and placements of signs in the area.

As a resident of [REDACTED], **I have received notification by mail of every other change to Northbourne Ave.** I was also extremely aware of the change of 60km to Northbourne, made many years ago.

An extremely large number of fines have been incurred and **it is my belief that due to the current state of a worldwide/ Australia wide pandemic and people's current state of mind, the media has not been an effective way to notify drivers in Canberra of this major change to the busiest most widely used three lane road in the ACT.** This fact, combined with very limited small, temporary, and confusing signage (when compared to other, less busy areas in Canberra) has left drivers confused and unaware of the new limits.

All points of reference will be addressed in my submission, along with other relevant points. **I am also responding to letters I received from Access Canberra** regarding my fine of 53km in a previously 60 km zone accrued on my way to work. **These letters were received after new signs were erected, previous signs moved, more paintwork done, and tree foliage removed from obscuring the signs.**

I have taken over 500 photos of the area and am prepared to go before the committee. I have photos of the area with no signs as far as the eye can see. There is no warning of the zone either end before you get to it as in Belconnen photos provided), but notification of the end of the zone? **I have stood and witnessed motorists that still don't know, increase their speed to 60km in these areas.** Most importantly, there are "40km Roadwork" signs at the beginning and end of the zone and also many within the zone, implying that the change is temporary and due to roadworks.



I also have evidence that since the publicity surrounding this issue, two of the 60 km signs approaching Barry Drive that I stated were too close to the 40 km signs to slow down before

the camera, have been moved. More signs have also been added since the public outcry. **My article in the Canberra Times on Aug 7, 2021,** <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/7374736/govt-says-it-will-act-as-civic-40kmh-zone-anger-at-fines-grows/>

states that the transport minister Chris Steel “agreed to boost signage.”



I therefore see this as an **admittance of liability.** I now ask if the signs were adequate, why were they be moved and agreed to be boosted?

I believe the public deserve and now request:

-all fines be removed from July 5 until now, until all ACT residents receive adequate, effective notice of the changes by mail, along with a map of all the new zones in the ACT and a new introductory grace period.

-After this mailout, large, clear permanent, signage as per my requests and examples provided before recommencement of cameras

-Notification of ALL changed speed zones in Canberra to every driver in the future to avoid unnecessary fines and promote safe driving.

Terms of Reference

a) road user advice and education effectiveness prior to the 5 July implementation.

Access Canberra Response:

“ a joint media release from Minister Cheye and Minister Steel reminding Canberrans to slow down in the 40kph speed zones,”

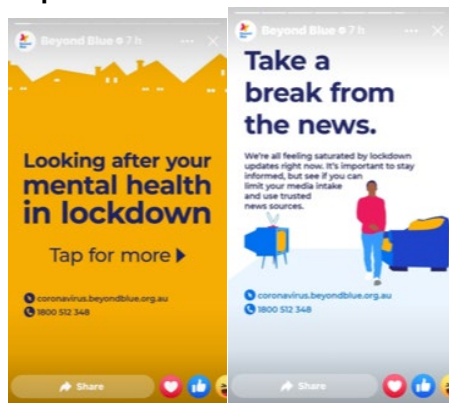
- *radio advertisements across multiple time slots, and either side of the news during peak hour, to alert motorists to the speed zone changes,*
- *20 media articles covering the change including from ABC News, Canberra Times and the Riot ACT, as well as most major Canberra radio stations, and*
- *Significant coverage on social media from both community-based and ACT Government notice board groups”*

My Response :

I knew nothing of the change.

The only time I have ever heard of a 40km zone was in a school zone. I listen to **104.7 every day at work** I am on **ABC news, Canberra Community Notice Board, The Canberra Times,** and **ACT Police on social media** which I access daily. I therefore see the advertising as totally ineffective.

The **Beyond Blue Facebook page** states to “**limit media watching during the coronavirus**” to protect mental health.



6 August 2021-Beyond Blue Facebook Story

My family has endured the longest, strictest lockdown in the world in Melbourne. Both my family's and my own mental health have suffered due to the virus. **I did not watch as much television as usual, in particular the news, due to the distressing nature of the content.** As a hairdresser clients, friends and family advised me they did not watch the news due to the constant updates about the virus. Many others I have spoken to also did not know about the change. A [REDACTED] Hackett resident with a perfect driving history, stated to me that he reads the Canberra Times every day and also knew nothing.

I started a petition to reverse all fines until adequate notification is given to all ACT residents via mail and signage is increased/replaced.

<https://chng.it/RdZjbCmg>

This petition now has 1507 signatures.

I have attached an excel document of all comments by those stating they did not see the signs, nor know of the change.

I therefore assumed as I was not told, that the 40km roadwork signs below, were due to roadworks within a 60 km zone, which it has been for many years.

(See images next page)



All above signs within the zone stating 40 km roadwork, first picture one is placed just before the speed camera North end second one South end (with a 60km sign hanging out implying it was 60 km before) indicating the 40km is from roadwork. Last picture Barry Drive, temporary signage close by as always -indicating the whole zone is from roadworks. It appears roadwork signs are being used incorrectly to slow down motorists to 40 km or places too close to 40 km signs. Why install 40 km roadwork sign within 40 km zone, its already 40 km, how confusing ? Trucks next to the 40 signs indicate roadwork.

A new speed camera sign went up after all the publicity began:



9th August 21



21 Sep 21

I access Northbourne daily to get out of my suburb and most often use the Barton Highway due to traffic, therefore was not familiar with nor looking for new signs. **I had not used Northbourne for some time. I definitely would have avoided it, had I known they had changed the limit. It's not practicable to commute from [REDACTED] every day for a 25-minute run at that speed.** The last time I used the road it was night; I did not see any 40 km signs and one lane was blocked off - therefore impossible to do over 40 km due to congestion.

Until I received the fine, to my knowledge nowhere in Canberra was 40 km apart from a school zone. **As this is a new idea, due to having no notification I did not make the connection nor feel signs were noticeable enough.** On Northbourne there is always roadworks and has been since the installation of the tram.

The lowest speed signs I had ever seen were Bungendore etc at 50 km. If this is a new concept elsewhere, I have not travelled as much either due to the virus and lockdowns.

b) effectiveness of warning signage.

Response from Access Canberra:

Where the cameras are active there are a total of 17 advisory signs for the 40km/h speed zone:

- Northbourne Avenue – Northbound between London Circuit and Barry Drive – **seven** 40km/h signs and one Variable Message Sign,
- Northbourne Avenue – Southbound between Barry Drive and London Circuit – **five** 40km/h signs, and
- Barry Drive – Westbound between Northbourne Avenue and Marcus Clarke Street – **four** 40km/h signs.
- **Road markings at each location.**
- **the installation of permanent road signage and road markings indicating the new 40kph speed zones,**
- **Variable Message Signs (VMS) being used during May, June, and July. Temporary VMS boards remain in place highlighting the new speed zones,**

My Response:

I do not believe that the 17 small signs are sufficient, adequately placed nor effective. 20000 people did not see or notice them. I have still not been advised exactly where the zones are and feel nervous driving in the area changing gears in a manual car.

The signs are too small from a distance, (especially when transitioning South from 70km to 40km) **placed too high for their size, too spaced out, on one side of the road only, confusing and not visible from the third lane of a three-lane highway.** I did see them nor was aware of the new limit until fined.



This sign is just before the 40 km zone South end, it is within a 70 km zone, therefore displays 70 km, 50km and 60km within one area. Of course there is a roadwork sign thrown in as well, all shortly before the new 40 km zone. No wonder motorists are confused.

(See images next page)



Signs are very scarce, hard to see, inadequately placed.

There are long stretches with no signs as far as you can see. This is the area many motorists "forget due to the previous limit and speed up to 60 km. I have watched it.





I do not believe this to be adequate for such a major change on a such a busy road. I have provided examples below of much, much larger signs I saw at the AIS. They are huge easy to see from a distance and very, very clear. There is absolutely no doubt when you observe these, that the change is permanent.



AIS signs

The Northbourne signs seen below, as stated by Access Canberra are still of a “temporary” nature for a three-lane highway, permanent change apparently notified large March and enforced July 5?

It is now October. **The very nature of the signs being “temporary” indicates to motorist that the change is temporary**, and it is this reasoning by Access Canberra that is not understood by me and clearly many others. It is confusing.

They are too small and “temporary” As an example, the lockdown sign is twice the size. We all know and perceive the lockdown as “temporary” therefore the issue is clearly that the current signage is perceived by motorists as a “temporary” change. Due to the amount of roadworks on Northbourne, it looks like roadworks. **The wheels alone imply it will be moved ! I have only ever seen a sign of this nature for a temporary situation such as roadworks when travelling, sporting or major community events or lockdowns.** It is not effective nor doing the job.

It is completely inadequate as per my examples at the AIS above and below. The flashing sign takes three to four seconds to change from “Please Slow Down” to “40 km Speed Limit Enforced” by which time you have passed by. **It still looks like it is temporarily asking you to slow down. It is not good enough. 20000 motorists cannot be wrong.**



“Temporary signs” still in place for a permanent speed limit change apparently advised in March. It is October. Presence of wheels on signs indicate movement and therefore appear only temporary as in the case of roadworks and large community, sporting events. **Totally unsatisfactory for our main road- adjacent to the new tram near pedestrians. Motorists are not getting the picture.**



Lockdown sign. Large wheels imply change is temporary- it is !

The very large sign I have provided below is clear. There is no doubt it is a permanent change.

A permanent change needs a permanent sign.



There is no notification of the beginning of the 40 km zone either end of Northbourne before the actual zone as in Belconnen pictured below, Black "40 Ahead" signs are placed before the actual 40 km signs (circled in picture)



Belconnen near the police station Black "40 Ahead" signs in the forefront, before the actual 40 km zone sign. (Circled in red). These signs do not exist on Northbourne Ave

especially when transitioning from 70 km on Adelaide Ave as below



South end entry

North end entry

Coincidentally, at both ends there is notification of the end of the zone. These signs are black and not as noticeable as the red ones. **The first picture the sign is so fresh it has fallen over.** It was also recently installed as has been like this for weeks. **I view this as totally unacceptable considering the current publicity surrounding this issue. Is not bothering to fix the sign promoting safe driving?**



Pic 1 and 2 North End- End of zone Sep 26 21



South End- End of zone marked black sign

Until recently when the North end signs were moved, **both ends cameras were placed 500 m from the beginning of the zone with no warning of approaching it** or reduce speed signs as in other areas. This is of particular importance when transitioning from the South northbound (Adelaide Ave) from 70 km to 40 km. **There is insufficient signage to prompt motorists to slow down in time**

No reduce speed signs as on Ginninderra Drive as in below picture where you are notified well before the speed changes from 80km-60km. More warning given for a 60km zone than a 40 km busy road with a tram?



Ginninderra Drive to Lyneham (Yarra Glen is similar)

At the north end, the 60 km sign was around 200 m from the 40 km sign and very close to the camera when I was fined. I emailed Andrew Barr's office before I received word back about my fine. Unfortunately, I stood near the 60 km sign at the time, not thinking when photographing, so I don't have a photo of this.

This meant by the time you slowed down to 40km the sign was just after, and the camera got you as it was only 200m from the 40 km signs. The 40 km signs were not previously next to the paint on the road. **This whole area has changed both the 40 km signs and the 60 km signs have been moved further.**



Taken where 60 km sign used to be August 9



Taken 21 September

I have the photo of the hole filled where the 60 km signs were when I was fined.



Old position of 60 km signs 200 m from 40 zone (holes)



New position 800 m from 40 zone on pole

The 40 km signs were moved to the paint on the road to correspond with the road markings (also after my email) the 60km signs been moved to around 800 m back now and put on a pole. After this was done, I received a letter from Access Canberra the saying the signs were adequate.

Other 40km zone signs spotted in Canberra have larger signs and are placed lower, clearly visible at a distance as lower down.



Epic with corresponding reduce speed signs and 40 number is larger, Message is clear and visible.

There is only one small sign barely visible far over on the left on Barry Drive



Then the third camera. Most motorists when going to Belconnen that way would instinctively turn the corner and accelerate. As I changed gears around the corner my needle went up to 43 km and wham another camera! No one has yet been notified of the zone area or where it extends to here.

The camera is way too far down on Barry Drive and serves no purpose.

If the other two cameras are due to the tram and pedestrian traffic that does not make sense. **There are no large signs as I have provided at the AIS anywhere near the tram zone for motorists to connect the change with the tram zone? All the ACT were notified of the installation of the tram and especially the Civic to Woden extension.** I was told I was not notified of the changes to 40 km zones as I lived too far down in Downer although the Woden tram extension starts at Civic?

I spoke to the AFP. Legally, no specific distance between speed limit signs is required till you get to the next one. **There are just not enough signs or so many people would not have been fined. It is strategically done so people “forget” and do 60km as they have for 20 years automatically. I have watched it, especially near the tram stop. A major boost of large signage is required at the tram stop area and both entry points.**

I no longer feel safe driving in this area in a manual car I feel the limit is too low for such a busy road and it is difficult to navigate when changing gears in a manual car without a digital speedo

Road markings at each location

Until recently I only saw one painted area on the road- Southbound near Barry Drive. This has also increased since the publicity I have now observed one near the tram stop. It was not there before. **It appears the new one was painted after my fine and before my letter from Access Canberra.**



New paint near tram stop no signs to keep them consistent as below

Only the Barry Drive markings have corresponding signs and they were moved after I got my fine, so still missed by motorists.

The signs were also obscured by trees or moved as below.



Can't see 40 signs



Clearer with no tree in front?

This theme but with larger signs needs to be repeated at each road marking, there is no pattern or consistency to the signs on Northbourne.

c) reasons for the continued and abnormally large number of breaches.

-public are still not aware

- **ineffective advertising due to lack of media watching/ social media and changed conditions in mental health, priorities, society culture, working conditions, finances and less car travel due to corona virus**

-**No grace period -many first found out via the fine itself**

-such a major change, automatic to do previous limit especially when built and travelling to work

-**Inadequate, confusing, sparse, inadequate sized, inconsistent, and poorly placed signage**

-**No identification of zone prior to entry nor warning nor large reduce speed warning**

-**Roadworks taking place at the same time stating 40 km within 40 Km? Also at start and end of zone implying 40 km within 60km zone**

-**Temporary” signage for a permanent change supposedly decided 8 months ago**

-No other zone is 40 km apart from school therefore no change so motorists unable to make the connection and would expect 50 km at the lowest as in Bungendore

d) strategies for rectifying causes of the infringement rate.

-Notification and map by mail to every household

-large appropriately placed clear consistent permanent signage especially at entry points and tram stop

- **warning of the zone before the actual zone as in Belconnen**

-large reduce speed signs at entry both North and South bound to allow change of speed before “snapped by camera “

e) impact on the community of the new fines and whether the level of this impact justifies a fines waiver for the month of July

- Current economic state of ACT due to lockdown financial pressures adding to emotional pressures during a difficult time

-many households were unaware and received multiple fines due to no grace period so didn't know ---

-All fines removed until adequate signage is installed, and all notified by mail, the whole process started again with a grace period also in the mailout

-Good drivers losing many points may lose licence

- **public outcry but many feel unable to pursue due to other pressures currently due to the virus**

f) any other matter relevant to this issue.

-We are in the middle of a pandemic; the Government apologised and said their mind was elsewhere? Don't you think ours were also?

-I am 53 years of age and hold a driver's licence since age 21. **At no stage have I been required to do an eyesight test to renew an ACT licence.** I have suspected with age my eyesight may have changed, but I have at no time **been required to prove my eyesight is ok to hold an ACT licence.** **Therefore, how do you effectively establish if the signs are adequate?**

Many did not see the signs, yet were handed an ACT licence renewal for years without having their eyesight tested at any stage. Instead, we are called “speeders” and accused of “speeding” in a built-up area, not clearly marked doing the previous limit?

Many as myself were informed by Access Canberra to “**pay attention to the road**” and **that “ignorance of the law was not an excuse, all 20000 of us,**

I am not a bad driver and always follow the speed limit.

I have been insulted by both politicians and Access Canberra.
In my case, my fine was not waived due to a "previous fines".

I cannot express enough my absolute and utter disgust. Those previous fines were accrued in exactly the same manner, I just never said anything. Driving to work in an area doing the speed limit for 20 years then wham the limit was changed unbeknownst to me and a camera put in.

I was aware of the change of 60km to Northbourne?

I have been discriminated against as those with no previous fines and I am in the same predicament re. this issue. Hence my submission.

My only choice was to dispute the matter in court, for one fine.

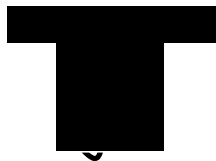
I as many other Canberrans I have spoken to do not feel capable of fighting alone in court and possibly being accused of being a "speeder" again.

I also do not have the physical, emotional and financial capacity to fight the matter in court due to the present conditions and other personal reasons.

I speak for all Canberrans that were unaware as I was and did not see the signs. I can only hope something will be done and all these ridiculous unnecessary fines will stop, along with the absolutely appalling treatment I received as a law-abiding citizen, when trying to articulate my concerns.

I look forward to your immediate attention regarding this matter,

Sincere Thanks

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

ACT Resident, 

Name City State Post Country Date Comment

"Andrew Barr himself has admitted that there should have been more done to notify Canberra's. I use the area during peak hour and am too busy watching pedestrians, the car in front, the traffic flow and lights, I did not notice the change for some time after implementation"

"It's money making revenue! No need to be 40 in this area!"

"Just revenue raising"

"Strongly support this. These fines should be waived and a warning and adjustment period should be in place. How could 20,000 people be wrong about this. The signage is obviously inadequate."

"I think the communication behind the changed speed limits was inadequate. There have been too many people fined. Full disclosure I was hit with two fines in the same week without meaning to speed and certainly without being dangerous."

"I could not see any signs to say it had changed and I was doing the previous limit"

"A timely letter in the mail after the 1st offence would've worked instead of 3 fines in a row. When you've been driving down the same road for over a decade you focus more on the traffic conditions that signs."

"It is not normal to drive 40km on a three lane major connecting road"

"I wasn't notified adequately"

"A lot of people I know got the fine, one is a taxi driver and was driving after a long time on his first shift after a break. This is his first fine in 5 years."

"This needs a change"

"I've been fined from no notification of speed changes on a road I've been driving for 20 years. The signs are inadequate and the impact on people that live in the outer regions without notification is unfairly creating economic and social inequalities because demerit points impact holding a license and many of the outer regions do not have adequate public transport systems to be without personal transport. This will have an impact of people's ability to work which in turn will have an impact on taxable incomes for the government to thrive. Everybody has a right to social movement and our government has a responsibility to ensure equality in our community. Which means information to make informed choices."

"Canberra is [redacted] up"

"Why does everyone have to pay cause people can't walk across a road"

"My husband got a \$300 fine for doing 46 km/h in a 40 zone that was not sufficiently signposted. Serious!"

"I support this!"

"I received a fine, 7km over!"

"It's confusing to the people.."

"I'm all for safety but this is ridiculous. I don't recall seeing the carnage of everyone traveling at 60kms.

Consultation was lacking, execution of the implementation poor at best. Honestly I'm not surprised by this useless Directorate. I will drive 70kms out of my way to avoid this clusterfark."

"The signing was so inadequate that my son missed it 2 days in a row! He lives on the Southside, and he was well under the 60 limit he's known since he got his licence 20 years ago."

"I am one of the motorists affected by the recent changes."

"We received 2 fines, a day apart. One going 51 and one going 47!! If this is about safety, why is there a fixed camera?? There are more problem areas with high speeds and no fixed cameras. This is pure revenue raising. I normally ride my bike and these new limits do nothing to protect safety as most incidents occur between pedestrians/cyclist's when drivers don't look changing lanes or turning left. True analysis required if the government wants to argue safety! \$600 and two demerit points for driving under 60. Urgent independent review required."

"There is no need for this area to be 40km an hour. Residential streets are 50!"

"My wife has been driving through these intersections for years as she picks me up for work. She had no idea of the change. Had been clicked twice in a week, once doing 45 and another 58."

"I believe this zone is inappropriately placed."

"This is ridiculous!"

"I support removal of the fines until adequate signage can be erected"

"Signage and communication to ACT residents needs to be consistent, otherwise this is just a cash grab."

"Speed limit not properly communicated, fines unfair."

"The new speed limits are pointless, lead to delays and ridiculous fines"

"Because there was no adequate warning that the limit was reduced. I was booked doing 46 kph in a 40 zone. That zone was previously 60."

"The information about how far the 40km zone extends in all directions has not been clear enough."

"This is entrapment. Another money grab by the ACT Government."

"I got a fine for 7km/h on Northbourne - didn't see any signage."

"Not adequately advertised. Signage insufficient to alert motorists to such a radical change to city speed limits."

"The dark side of the force is strong with this bureaucracy, Return the fine monies remove the offenses, apologise. Fix your signage and notification process and question if these limit changes are even necessary. Motorists are not cash cows to support bumbling bureaucratic business buffoons."

"This lack of signage is equal to entrapment"

"Like others, I received two fines a day apart after driving on Northborne for the first time in many months and not realising there was a new speed limit. No obvious signage. There's no safety benefit in unsigned fixed cameras if one doesn't realise the low speed limit or the existence of the camera."

"To penalise one group of people when it is a response to poor city planning, is utterly wrong. The fines are disproportionate to the crime - 46km = \$301. If you're worried about the light rail foot traffic, put a pedestrian foot believe in and block off the unsafe areas so close to a main road!! Poor planning ACT gov. Enough for me to change my labour vote."

"In 25 years of driving not one offence then seven fines in 10 days!! This is insane. Fully agree with poor communication and signage. No warnings received during grace period and highly questionable locations for the cameras. Camera for 40km/hr limits at lights leaving northbourne towards Parliament as you transition to 60km then 70km, and then again on Barry Drive nowhere near Northbourne foot traffic!! Ridiculous. On Northbourne near tram and busy civic area is understandable, but not on the exit points of Northbourne. Please share this!"

"In 25 years of driving not one offence then seven fines in 10 days!! This is insane. Fully agree with poor communication and signage. Why only send written advice to Braddon and Civic - where lots of ppl don't even drive! No warnings received during grace period and highly questionable locations for the cameras. Camera for 40km/hr limits at lights leaving northbourne towards Parliament as you transition to 60km then 70km, and then again on Barry Drive nowhere near Northbourne foot traffic!! Ridiculous. 50km might have been a better measure., Having cameras around Northbourne near tram and busy civic area is understandable, but not on the exit points of Northbourne. Please share this!"

"Not enough signs and no community benefit to dropping the limit to 40 on this kind of road. Time for a rethink. Revenue raising at its best!"

"I never speed and was caught in this mess doing 47 in what used to be a 60 zone. There was not enough warning in my opinion, of signage for such a big change."

"\$310 and one demerit point for 46K at a badly marked intersection in civic. Money gouging to pay for the light rail."

"Another complete stuffup by this Govt"

"Inadequate notification that the speed limit was changing."

"Money grab."

"The sheer number of fines being issued clearly indicates that many motorists are simply unaware of the ridiculously low new limit. My wife copped 3 in a week at \$300 each and otherwise hasn't copped a fine in years."

"The ACT government has not given fair warning and appropriate signage to rake in this much in fines. This decision needs to be reversed and the appropriate community consultation undertaken."

"Signage is actually adequate however the speed camera location is totally inappropriate and blatant revenue raising. Going north, the camera is placed where you naturally speed up to get through the intersection and transition into the 60 zone going out of the city. There is no reason for this area to be 40 - there isn't a lot of pedestrians as they are blocked from crossing the road by the light rail garden beds."

"The reduced speed limit on main arterial roads is inappropriate and unsafe."

"I got done the day after it changed and bugged if I saw a 40km/h sign anywhere."

"More government revenue raising under the guise of "safetyism" and zero risk bias, another example of relentless official intrusion."

"I got caught in evening and agree I had completely missed change to signage. Over \$300 for going 46km/hr! Then was caught on way home going 51. A very expensive night out! I maybe missed the sign but don't think I was driving unsafely when most suburban streets are 50 signage. If I had ripped through town at 79 km/hr I'd be charged \$481 (according to an article I read). Much less than 2 not so fast speeds. I am all for safe driving but it with such a change and such high fines, it needs to be better signposted. Within 1 block entering from the north, there's a sign for 60 and another for 40. I note the 40 is also written on road in other spots but not here."

"I was fined and I did not know that it went from 60 to a 40 zone"

"There has been totally inadequate signage @ Northbourne Ave & Barry Drive; so unexpected! No promotion seen or heard anywhere, very small, camouflaged, inconspicuous signs which are obscured by other, larger vehicles on a 3 lane road..! It is also notable that so many fines of vehicles 5-6-7 km over the new limit; so we'll under the previous 60 km!"

"We were not even aware of the new speed zone reduction and members of my family were pinged twice in one week. Considering it is one of the primary arterial routes into the CBD, it's ridiculous that it had the same speed zone as driving past a school. Blatant money grabbing exercise by a pathetic government with massive egos."

"I'm a careful, compliant driver, reflected in my driving history. But I don't drive through the city often, and missed the large temporary signage when it was there. I simply didn't see that speed limits had changed when I drove through recently. With the overload of signage in Civic, it takes something different for a new sign to stand out. Our brains generally aren't wired to see the small detail changes. If it wasn't for a Canberra Times article, I'd have remained unaware of the change (until the fine arrived). Likely I was caught during the grace period too, but what's the point of a grace period if people aren't warned that they'll be fined in the future? It really smacks of a revenue raise effort, not a safety measure."

"I received one of these fines on the now 40km section on Barry drive at 6:30pm on a Friday evening (49 in a 40 zone)!. The signage on that section is also confusing especially where the speed zone ends west bound with an end 40km zone sign posted 50 meters before the 60km sign. The road is a major thorough fare and is empty of pedestrians outside of core business hours. Besides the poor signage, I just don't see the need for this signage. I've been commuting along both Northbourne Ave and Barry Drv for years and I don't recall there ever being a problem with pedestrians or bike riders being knocked over. Are these changes supported by accident statistics? Is there really a problem that required this change? Is this the right solution?"

"It's symptomatic of everything bad about government - greedy, unfair, deliberate act of entrapment, excessively greedy fines at \$301 for doing 41kph, and completely counter cultural to turn the city into a 24/7 school zone. Where else in the country do such driving restrictions apply? Signs set at the edges of 3 lane roads are cheap, inadequate, often covered from view by large vehicles. It is an act of entrapment, pure and simple."

"Everybody p fined should know that if they have not had a TIN for 5 years, they can request to be let off. Read your notice carefully to check your rights, including your right to request to be let off, and your right to negotiate a way to pay. I request an amnesty for all fined during July who were driving under 61 I have not been fined but I feel very strongly about this happening in my city to honest people. The numbers caught are proof positive of the inadequacy of signage and notification. And what is the purpose of inadequate signage and notification of such a significant change as 40 kph 24/7?"

"These new speed limits are pure revenue raising. There is no proof lives have been lost or in danger with speed limits as they were."

"Revenue raising at it's best"

"100% agree about the inadequate signage, especially when traveling from South."

"This entire exercise is a cynical money-raising ploy adopted by a corrupt and out-of-touch government determined to force an antiquated and ruinously expensive and disruptive transport mode on a population that does not want it."

"Being an ex Resident and frequent visitor, it is important to see notification of changes to road conditions. This affects all. And the Notification should be strong and be able to be seen and understood by all."

"It was not fair and it is only a revenue"

"If the try purpose is pedestrian safety notification is needed"

"My son drives this way Every day and has just been told of the 40km an hour. He had no use it had changed as signage was not noticed"

"Unfortunately received the gift that keeps giving to the local government's coffers yesterday. My partner advised that I should appeal based on the notion that I had no prior knowledge that it had been fully implemented. Not sure how that will stand. Any thoughts?"

"I received two fines in 2 days, \$300 each, at the London Circuit / Northbourne Avenue intersection. I was travelling under 60km/h on each occasion believing I was within the speed limit. It occurred at about 9 pm on a freezing CBR evening as I was on my way home from football training. There were zero pedestrians in the street. I received both fines in the mail on the same day. Very harsh administration."

"May it well have been sign posted, as claimed. However, it is a gallery of signs where people become overloaded by instruction and become "sign blind" .50 kph as a kph reduction would be sufficient. 40 kph should be reserved for school where there IS a flood of unsupervised small children."

"I totally agree - the Queensland Government has just recently introduced a range of new speed cameras - but they are giving a 3 month grace period so people are educated. People get a notice in the mail to tell them that they would have been charged and to alert them to the new. The ACT should have done the same - people have been driving for years in Civic at 60 - who looks at the speed signs when for over 25 years it has been the same limit???? Not adequately advertised at all"

"While the idea to reduce speed in Civic is a good one, it was introduced with virtually no publicity. I read the Canberra Times every day and receive Our CBR from the ACT Government every month and in neither publications was there a single article or advertisement about the proposed changes until an article on 28 July in the CT explaining that 20000 drivers had disregarded the new speed limit [but not informed] and then 18437 had been fined in the past three weeks! That means that almost 40000 Canberra drivers were negligent drivers over six weeks - more than in a normal year. What irks me is receiving a demerit point for travelling well within the previous 60kph."

"Not logic"

"If that many people are being fined it can't be adequately sign posted."

"Act Gov in the wrong....correct the issue...total incompetency."

"I received one also!"

"I hope I haven't been booked, but I had no idea of the change in speed limit."

"received infringement notice last month"

"Don't be greedy ! plz change speed limit to 60km/hr"

"I got my first speeding ticket ever with this new change (not by luck but because I don't speed); after living in Canberra my whole life - there was no warning or advertising and inadequate signs."

"Just received notice from ACT government that if we don't pay the fine we will be taken to the Magistrates Court just checking whether others have received similar and what you plan to do? Thanks"

"I drove through civic for the first time in months, from the Anu through the hill on north northbourne at 60km, didn't see the sign until too late. Idk how many cameras I drove through :("

"I suggest authority to update changed speed limits to GPS as well. Formerly being NSW resident, I have been really surprised by inconsistency in speed signs in ACT. I see speed limits on GPS barely match with poorly placed speed sign posted ridiculously"