



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 14 – Stuart Watts

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

Received - 10/10/21

Authorised – 14/10/21

From: Stuart Watts [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 10 October 2021 2:39 PM
To: LA Committee - PTCS <LACommitteePTCS@parliament.act.gov.au>
Subject: Speeding fines submission

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Committee members

Thank you for pursuing the unjust and excessive traffic policy related to the new speed cameras in Civic. At a time of heightened mental and financial distress for people this policy borders on reckless.

In 25 years of driving I have never had a speeding fine. In July I received eight(!) in two weeks thanks to the new speeding cameras around Northbourne/Barry Drive. This is not right evidenced by the sheer number of drivers being caught. I did not just start speeding in July. None of my speeds were over 60km and most were in the 40s!

Several key points for consideration:

- Welcome confirmation that warnings were in fact issued during the amnesty period.
- the signage needs to be upgraded and remains confusing with multiple roadworks also occurring during the July/August period. Has the government changed the signing since June/July? If so this would suggest they realised it was insufficient to begin with.
- Should there be time periods for the lower speed? The limit could have been reduced to 50km/hr. Not even schools have 40km limits all day.
- I support lower speeds (50km would be ok) but with the right communication. Only Civic and Braddon received mail outs - this is crazy as many people in this area don't drive through the area and notifications needed to go to surrounding suburbs that commute through this area daily. This was a clear oversight in terms of communications.
- The whole point of the change was to improve road safety. However there appear to be no/no cameras covering the stops and key pedestrian areas near the actual tram - only cameras on the edge of Civic. You can go over 40km around the high foot traffic areas near the tram but not on the edge as you leave and enter Civic. This is poor planning. The camera facing south as you leave Civic towards Parliament from

Northbourne seems particularly poorly placed as it is not targeting a high pedestrian area/crossing and quickly transitions to a 60km/70km zone.

I have challenged all the fines and have submitted an FOI for all the documentation around this decision which I am happy to share with you. The FOI documents received so far show the Minister's own brief in 2019 foreshadowed this change would be sensitive and this advice appears to have been ignored.

I welcome your efforts to investigate this poorly formulated measure. I am happy to be contacted to support the committee's investigation.

Kind regards

Stuart Watts

