



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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

Submission No 15 – Martin Barlow

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

Received - 10/10/21

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**From:** Martin Barlow [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 10 October 2021 3:07 PM  
**To:** LA Committee - PTCS <[LACommitteePTCS@parliament.act.gov.au](mailto:LACommitteePTCS@parliament.act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** 40kmh speed zones in Canberra City.

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to bring your attention to a likely unintended consequence of the implementation and strict enforcement of 40kmh speed zones on Northbourne Ave and Barry Drive in Canberra City.

Due to increased congestion caused by the lower speed limit, many City bound drivers from Belconnen are now avoiding the traffic lights around the 40kmh zones by "rat running" through the ANU. The city bound right turn from Barry drive into Kingsley Street is now heavily congested, particularly during the morning peak, and the stop sign at Rimmer Street is causing a queue of cars which is also impacting buses being able to turn right at the Barry Drive "B" light into Kingsley Street.

Drivers are now utilising Kingsley Street, Kingsley Place, Hutton Street, Childers Street and University Avenue to avoid the intersections monitored by the traffic cameras. These streets are all heavily utilised by vulnerable road users. The irony is that the reason given for the reduction in speed limits on Barry Drive and Northbourne Avenue is for the protection of vulnerable road users.

My observation is that the added congestion around the ANU streets coincides exactly with the new 40kmh speed limits although the current Covid lockdown has alleviated the problem. My view is that this situation will once again present itself when traffic volumes are back to normal. It is a situation that requires attention.

Your sincerely

Martin Barlow