



# 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 40 – Mary Harwood

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

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**From:** Mary Harwood [REDACTED]  
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**To:** LA Committee - PTCS <LACommitteePTCS@parliament.act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Inquiry into impact of revised speed limits In Civic – Petitions 31-21 and 38-21

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I would like add my voice to those commenting on the speed limit changes in Civic.

In my view neither the extent of the speed limit reduction or the manner of its implementation were fair or reasonable.

The significant reduction from 60kph to 40kph reduces the flow of traffic on a major thoroughfare (Northbourne Ave) to an unnaturally and unnecessarily slow pace.

The reduction was implemented with poor signage and no warning. The high number of infringements issued immediately on changing the limit was not a sign that Canberra motorists are bad drivers. I and many of my colleagues who work in or near Civic, most of whom had 'clean' licences with no points lost, were shocked and surprised to receive infringement notices. In my case I received two notices, the infringement date of the first one I received being days AFTER the second one. Both arrived in the mail. Had they arrived the right order and quickly I might have been able to respond and avoid the second one, knowing then that a speed limit change had occurred. I paid both by the due date but I regret doing this. I wish now I had appealed against both.

**I now seek a refund of the fines paid and the point debits from my clean licence restored.**

I am unconvinced that by authorities' the claim that a reduction to 40kph was necessary for pedestrian safety. The relevant area in Civic has traffic/pedestrian signals on every intersection. The fact that many fines (including mine) were for speeds under 50kph shows that people were already driving at a measured pace through the relevant area.

Despite the fact that many people like me who received fines had good driving records (with no demerit points lost) was ignored by the authorities.

Normally with a sharp regulatory change of this sort, there is a period when authorities offer some leniency while citizens adapt/become familiar with the new rules. No such comfort was offered, so it hard not to see the sharp, unannounced and poorly signposted Civic speed limit changes as being for revenue raising as opposed to public safety.

Thanks you for considering this submission

Mary Harwood

