

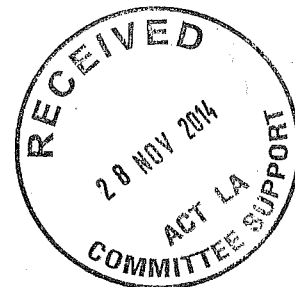


Authorised 15 December 2014

Simon Corbell MLA

ATTORNEY-GENERAL
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
MINISTER FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR CAPITAL METRO

MEMBER FOR MOLONGLO



Mr Brendan Smyth MLA
Chair
Standing Committee on Public Accounts
ACT Legislative Assembly
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Smyth

I refer to your letter of 14 October 2014 requesting the Government's position on the Auditor-General's report – Speed Cameras in the ACT.

Pleased find enclosed with this letter, the ACT Government's position on the Audit report, its findings, and timeframe for implementation of accepted recommendations.

Yours sincerely

Simon Corbell MLA
Attorney-General

28.11.14

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

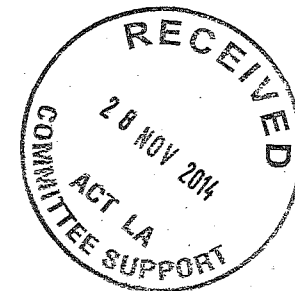
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STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S PERFORMANCE AUDIT REPORT – SPEED CAMERAS IN THE ACT

ACT GOVERNMENT POSITION



PURPOSE

This document provides the ACT Government position on the recommendations raised in the Auditor-General's Performance Audit Report – Speed Cameras in the ACT. An action plan, including a timeframe for delivery of agreed recommendations is included at Appendix 1.

Recommendation 1

The ACT Government should develop and implement a speed camera strategy that:

- a) includes a goal and measurable objectives for achieving a reduction in road trauma on ACT roads through the use of speed cameras and related speed management actions;**
- b) takes a long term perspective (to 2020 or beyond) and addresses speeding and speed related crashes across the whole of the ACT road network;**
- c) establishes, using leading practice elsewhere, options for the development and integration of speed camera systems that will collectively achieve the targeted reductions in road trauma; and**
- d) includes a sensitivity analysis, to support future budget proposals, which shows how varying levels of investments and the phasing of implementation will affect short, medium and long-term road safety.**

Response – AGREE

The Government agrees that its strategy for the road safety camera program should be clear about the objectives of the program and how the components of the program will achieve those objectives.

In November 2013 the Attorney-General announced that an evaluation of the existing program would proceed in the first half of 2014. That evaluation has been undertaken by the University of New South Wales' (UNSW) Transport and Road Safety research group. The evaluation of the camera program, together with the findings of the Auditor-General's review, will support the development of a robust and comprehensive camera program strategy which addresses recommendations 1(a) to (c) of this recommendation. The outcome of the evaluation will be presented to the Assembly in 2015 together with the Government's road safety camera strategy.

The Government agrees that future budget proposals for investments in road safety cameras should include analysis of the projected road safety impacts of the level of investment sought.

Recommendation 2

The ACT Government should develop and implement a mobile speed camera plan which:

- a) specifies the extent of the ACT road network where mobile speed cameras may operate, and the time by which this is to occur; and
- b) identifies the effects of different levels of operational intensity (ie the number of vans and shifts, and siting priorities), and mode of operation (ie overt, covert) on road safety goals as coverage of the road network is expanded.

Response – AGREE

The Government will develop a mobile camera plan which is clear as to:

- (a) the parts of the road network where mobile speed cameras may operate;
- (b) the timeframe for achievement of mobile camera operations on this part of the road network;
- (c) the operational intensity and mode of operation of the mobile camera operations.

The plan will be informed by the outcome of the UNSW evaluation of the existing camera program. In the meantime, mobile cameras operations will continue on currently gazetted roads, details of which are published on the Justice and Community Safety website.

Recommendation 3

The ACT should review the purpose and siting of its existing 13 midblock speed cameras to determine if they need to be removed, relocated or expanded.

Response -AGREE

The UNSW evaluation of the existing camera program will be used to inform the review of the purpose and siting of the mid-block cameras, including whether they should be removed, relocated or expanded.

Recommendation 4

The ACT Government, for its two existing point to point camera installations, should:

- a) review and state the purpose of the system;**
- b) develop and implement an evaluation plan to assess their effectiveness in reducing speed and road trauma; and**
- c) determine their value for money compared with other speed management treatments to inform future decisions.**

Response - AGREE

The UNSW evaluation included a requirement for the development of an appropriate ongoing evaluation framework to support an effective road safety camera program. This will inform the review of the purpose of the point to point cameras.

Future decisions about road safety camera infrastructure will be informed by comparative assessments of alternative speed management treatments, including as to value for money.

Recommendation 5

The ACT Government should develop and implement a “relatively large, network representative, speed monitoring system” in order to determine changes in the extent of speeding on ACT roads.

Response – NOTED

The Government acknowledges that speed surveys undertaken by 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.

A program of speed surveys, on a large, network representative basis, is not presently resourced. Resourcing such a program would need to be considered in the context of competing budget priorities.

Recommendation 6

The ACT Government should develop and implement an ACT speed camera evaluation and data collection plan.

Response – AGREED

The UNSW evaluation of the camera program included a requirement for the development of an appropriate ongoing evaluation framework to support an effective road safety camera program, including data collection requirements to support effective evaluation. This will inform the development of an evaluation and data collection plan as part of an overarching camera program strategy.

The Justice and Community Safety Directorate has commenced development of improved data collection to support ongoing evaluation of the road safety camera program.

Recommendation 7

The ACT Government should routinely publish information on the effectiveness of all of its speed camera systems according to the stated purpose of each system.

Response – AGREED

The locations of existing fixed cameras and mobile camera locations are already published on the Justice and Community Safety Directorate website.

The road safety camera strategy will include provision for the regular publication of information about the performance of the road safety camera program.

The improvements to data collection being progressed by the directorate will support this.

Recommendation 8

The Justice and Community Safety Directorate should document its procedures, and maintain comprehensive records, for its administration of requests for the disclosure of camera images.

Response – AGREE

All applications for disclosure of information are assessed under s.29 Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) 1999 and recorded on official files.

The Office of Regulatory Services is seeking legal advice to ensure documented procedures are fully compliant with s. 29.

Recommendation 9

The Justice and Community Safety Directorate should align its speed camera maintenance practices, internal standard operating procedures and contractual requirements.

Response – AGREE

Process has been amended to reflect the issues raised by the Auditor-General and to adhere to standard operating procedures.

Recommendation 10

The ACT Government should develop and implement a speed camera maintenance and replacement strategy (This could be part of the speed camera strategy which is the subject of Recommendation 1).

Response – AGREED

Recommendation 11

The Justice and Community Safety Directorate should develop and maintain a master inventory of speed camera devices and use this to verify the key content of new certification against primary and/ or secondary sources.

Response – AGREED

A list is currently held in excel format that has details of all devices, certification dates and when devices are sent and returned from being certified. Outlook messages 3 TCO officers a reminder 4 weeks in advance of certification requirements. This process was updated on 24 April 2014 to include email notification to the maintenance contractor and certifier:

Recommendation 12

The Justice and Community Safety Directorate should undertake and document audits of approved mobile speed camera operators in accordance with its internal standard operating procedures.

Response - AGREED

Standard operating procedures were amended 24 April 2014 to ensure they align with current approved business practices. All audits are currently, and will continue to be, documented.

Recommendation 13

The Justice and Community Safety Directorate should strategically plan its mobile speed camera operations by fully applying the principles in the *Mobile camera unit site selection criteria* guide and on its speed camera webpages.

Response – AGREED

The UNSW evaluation of the current camera program and the development of a mobile camera plan as part of a road safety camera strategy, will be used to inform any changes to mobile speed camera operations, including in relation to site selection.

In the meantime, the existing principles will be applied.

Recommendation 14

The Justice and Community Safety Directorate should improve its recording of adjudication information so that this can be used to target improvements for reducing the infringement rejection rate.

Response – AGREED

The recently commissioned replacement red light and mobile cameras will assist in reducing rejection rates as they will be more reliable and provide higher resolution images which will assist in the adjudication process. The Government provided funding in the 2014/15 budget to undertake a feasibility study for the replacement of the TCO system. The outcome of this study will be considered in the context of future Government priorities.

Recommendation 15

The Justice and Community Safety Directorate, in its administration of infringements in the rego.act system, should:

- a) update its internal standard operating procedures;
- b) align practice with procedure; and
- c) maintain comprehensive records for all manual interventions.

Response - AGREED

The Office of Regulatory Services has aligned practice with procedures and updated standard operating procedures. The rego.act system and associated client request forms provide a comprehensive record for manual interventions.

As noted in the response to recommendation 11, the Government provided funding in the 2014/15 budget to undertake a feasibility study for the replacement of the TCO system. A report has been received, and is currently being considered, which provides options for the replacement of the TCO system.

Recommendation 16

The Justice and Community Safety Directorate should monitor the transparency, consistency and fairness of the administration of Camera Infringement Notices in the rego.act system by conducting qualitative or quantitative reviews.

Response - AGREED

The Office of Regulatory Services will develop and implement an automated report from rego.act to obtain management information to assist in auditing of infringement processes.

APPENDIX 1 – ACTION PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREED RECOMMENDATIONS

Number	Recommendation	Agency Responsible	Timeframe for delivery
1	<p>The ACT Government should develop and implement a speed camera strategy that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) includes a goal and measurable objectives for achieving a reduction in road trauma on ACT roads through the use of speed cameras and related speed management actions; b) takes a long-term perspective (to 2020 or beyond) and addresses speeding and speed related crashes across the whole of the ACT road network; c) establishes, using leading practice from elsewhere, options for the development and integration of speed camera systems that will collectively achieve the targeted reductions in road trauma; and d) includes a sensitivity analysis, to support future budget proposals, which shows how varying levels of investment and the phasing of implementation will affect short, medium and long-term road safety. 	<p>Legislation, Policy and Programs Justice and Community Safety Directorate</p>	<p>2014/15 Strategy to be developed in 2014/2015</p>

2	<p>The ACT Government should develop and implement a mobile speed camera plan which:</p> <p>a) specifies the extent of the ACT road network where mobile speed cameras may operate, and the time by which this is to occur; and</p> <p>b) identifies the effect of different levels of operational intensity (i.e. the number of vans and shifts, and siting priorities), and mode of operation (i.e. overt, covert) on road safety goals as coverage of the road network is expanded.</p>	<p>Legislation, Policy and Programs Justice and Community Safety Directorate</p>	<p>2014/15 To be informed by the development of the camera strategy</p>
3	<p>The ACT Government should review the purpose and siting of its existing thirteen mid-block speed cameras to determine if they need to be removed, relocated or expanded.</p>	<p>Legislation, Policy and Programs Justice and Community Safety Directorate</p>	<p>2014/15 To be informed by the UNSW evaluation and completed in the development of the camera strategy</p>
4	<p>The ACT Government, for its two existing point-to-point speed camera installations, should:</p> <p>a) review and state the purpose of the system;</p> <p>b) develop and implement an evaluation plan to assess their effectiveness in reducing speeding and road trauma; and</p> <p>c) determine their value for money compared with other speed management treatments to inform future decisions.</p>	<p>Legislation, Policy and Programs Justice and Community Safety Directorate</p>	<p>2014/15 To be informed by the UNSW evaluation and completed in the development of the camera strategy</p>
5	<p>The ACT Government should develop and implement a 'relatively large, network-representative, speed monitoring system' in order to determine changes in the extent of speeding on ACT roads.</p>	<p>Legislation, Policy and Programs Justice and Community Safety Directorate</p>	<p>No timeframe To be considered in the context of competing budget priorities</p>
6	<p>The ACT Government should develop and implement an ACT speed camera evaluation and data collection plan.</p>	<p>Legislation, Policy and Programs Justice and Community Safety</p>	<p>2014/15 To be informed by the UNSW evaluation and completed in the</p>

		Directorate	development of the camera strategy
7	The ACT Government should routinely publish information on the effectiveness of all its speed camera systems according to the stated purpose of each system.	Legislation, Policy and Programs Justice and Community Safety Directorate	2014/15 The road safety camera strategy will include provision for the regular publication of information about the performance of the road safety camera program. The improvements to data collection being progressed by the JACS directorate will support this.
8	The Justice and Community Safety Directorate should document its procedures, and maintain comprehensive records, for its administration of requests for the disclosure of camera images.	Office of Regulatory Services Justice and Community Safety Directorate	2014 All applications for disclosure of information are assessed under s.29 Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) 1999 and recorded on official files. The Office of Regulatory Services is seeking legal advice to ensure documented procedures are fully compliant with s. 29.
9	The Justice and Community Safety Directorate should align its speed camera maintenance practices, internal standard operating procedures and contractual requirements.	Office of Regulatory Services Justice and Community Safety Directorate	Complete
10	The ACT Government should develop and implement a speed camera maintenance and replacement strategy (This could be part of the speed camera strategy which is	Legislation, Policy and Programs Justice and Community Safety Directorate	See item relating to camera strategy

	the subject of Recommendation 1).		
11	The Justice and Community Safety Directorate should develop and maintain a master inventory of speed camera devices and use this to verify the key content of new certification against primary and / or secondary sources.	Office of Regulatory Services Justice and Community Safety Directorate	Complete
12	The Justice and Community Safety Directorate should undertake and document audits of approved mobile speed camera operators in accordance with its internal standard operating procedures.	Office of Regulatory Services Justice and Community Safety Directorate	Complete
13	The Justice and Community Safety Directorate should strategically plan its mobile speed camera operations by fully applying the principles in the <i>Mobile camera unit site selection criteria</i> guide and as set out on its speed camera web-pages.	Office of Regulatory Services Justice and Community Safety Directorate	Complete
14	The Justice and Community Safety Directorate should improve its recording of adjudication information so that this can be used to target improvements for reducing the infringement rejection rate.	Office of Regulatory Services Justice and Community Safety Directorate	In progress and ongoing New cameras will assist in reducing rejection rates as they will be more reliable and provide higher resolution images which will assist in the adjudication process.
15	The Justice and Community Safety Directorate, in its administration of infringements in the rego.act system, should: a) update its internal standard operating procedures; b) align practice with procedure; and c) maintain comprehensive records for all manual interventions.	Office of Regulatory Services Justice and Community Safety Directorate	In progress and ongoing The Office of Regulatory Services will align practice with procedures and update standard operating procedures. The rego.act system and

			associated client request forms provide a comprehensive record for manual interventions.
16	The Justice and Community Safety Directorate should monitor the transparency, consistency and fairness of the administration of Camera Infringement Notices in the rego.act system by conducting qualitative and / or quantitative reviews.	Office of Regulatory Services Justice and Community Safety Directorate	2015 The Office of Regulatory Services will develop and implement an automated report from rego.act to obtain management information and assist in auditing of infringement processes.