



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES
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Submission No 33 – Name Withheld

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

Received - 17/10/21

Authorised – 04/11/21

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 17 October 2021 10:34 AM
To: LA Committee - PTCS <LACommitteePTCS@parliament.act.gov.au>
Subject: Submission into the Inquiry into impact of revised speed limits In Civic

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Hi

I don't feel that 40k an hour is suitable for Northbourne Avenue or Barry Drive. There are number of issues with the speed limit change:

- They are both main roads so the speed limit change is unexpected; it is unusual for a major road to have such a slow speed limit and drivers are not expecting it.
- This is obvious from the many speeding fines in the last few months. There will continue to be a lot of fines from people who do not drive the road very often or are not from ACT. I am 54 and lived in Canberra most of my life so am very familiar with both roads. I have not driven on the roads much this year due to working from home and other reasons, but two times I have driven on both roads, I have forgotten about the 40k speed limit. I am not a bad driver but I am so familiar with the roads that I can drive a little bit on autopilot, so didn't notice the signs. This is not dangerous driving as I am very aware of the pedestrians, other cars and traffic light changes. I was also matching the speed of the other cars who were all driving above the 40k speed limit, but below 60k, with one being a NSW ambulance. This has resulted in a speeding fine of \$300.
- I then paid much more attention and tried my best to do the 40k speed limit. It is hard on Barry Drive as this is a long stretch of road, and if it is on the weekend or during lock down and there are not many people around, doing 40k is quite hard - the car wants to go faster and it seems to be quite ridiculous to be going so slow for such a long stretch of road.
- Yes, there are signs, but there are signs everywhere for everything. The number of signs on the Northbourne Ave stretch (heading to parliament house) is crazy - there are so many signs about all sorts of things that it is distracting from driving. At one point the 40k signs are hidden for the drivers on the inside lane because of the no left turn signs.
- 40k speed limits for schools is sensible, children are known to unexpectedly run onto the road and there are a lot of people doing drop offs and pick ups, so the argument is more appropriate in a school setting. I can also understand the 40k speed limit for the shopping areas on Lonsdale and Mort Sts, as they are narrow roads and there are lots of people. In reality you would very rarely get above 50k on those streets anyway. But that argument isn't there for either Northbourne or Barry Drive.
- I really feel for the people who were caught out - given the number of fines issued, it is clear it wasn't due to bad driving. It was because people didn't know or had forgotten about it - and while there were signs, clearly they weren't effective and didn't have an impact. It is an

unfair rule change that has impacted on such a large group of people who were not causing a lot of harm. The punishment definitely doesn't fit the crime.

- Maybe an alternative option is to trial a 50k speed limit and assess the impact over a couple of years. During the trial period the fine should not be more than \$150, and there should be no points taken from the driver. Depending on the evidence from the trial it could be continued or amended.

