



**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 43 – Daniel Sandford

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

Received - 18/10/21

Authorised – 04/11/21

To the Committee

**INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF REVISED SPEED LIMITS IN CIVIC PETITIONS 31-21 AND 38-21**

I write in strong support of the petition calling for waiver of fines for the month of July.

I have received an infringement notice in the month of July. My vehicle speed was under 60km the speed I thought was in force at the time. When I received my fine I went back into town and parked my car and walked along Rudd St to Northbourne Avenue and down to London circuit. There were absolutely no signs there indicating a change in the speed limit or a 40km limit. On the other side of Northbourne I saw two signs which said Roadwork and had a 40km sign. There was no announcement of changes to speed limits at all.

I can see that in recent weeks many new signs have been erected so that now it can be said that there is clear signage, this was not actually the case at the time and I understand that other people have taken photos of the minimal signs in place in early July.

I understand from the Canberra Times that Access Canberra officials briefed Ministers that 'a public information campaign was not viable in all circumstances' and that a recommendation that every licensed driver in Canberra receive a letter to inform them of the changed to the speed limit was rejected by Ministers.

I also understand that in the period when the cameras were on from 21 June to 4 July and infringements were not issued, there was no notification provided to those who exceeded the limit as a warning of the changes to come. This seems like a shocking oversight as people would have continued to drive the way they had done previously unaware of the changes which had taken place. Clearly the notification and communication process was flawed.

This has resulted in a significant impact on a substantial proportion of the community given the number of people that have been fined reflected in the significant rise in revenue to more than \$32m this year as outlined in the ACT Budget papers. Given these changes were followed soon after by our lockdown which commenced 14 August, the community is dealing with significant stresses including job losses and emotional well-being issues. Collectively these circumstances justify a fines waiver for the month of July as the impact on individuals is great.

I also note under the relevant legislation that the nature of the offences and the relevant risk should be taken into account when making decisions to waive fines. None of these infringements are serious and they all represent a low risk as long as drivers were driving below the speed limit of 60km they assumed was in force at the time.

In summary it is clear to me that the changes to the speed limit on Northbourne Avenue were implemented without effective communication and signage and I recommend that this Committee take action and recommend a fines waiver for the month of July.

Thank you for your consideration

Daniel Sandford  
18 October 2021

