



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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

Submission No 22 - Mr Paul Brunton

Inquiry into the Road Transport (Safety and Traffic
Management) Amendment Bill 2021 (No 2)

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I am writing to support the introduction of the Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) Amendment Bill 2021 (No 2) that imposes increased penalties for negligent driving that impacts vulnerable road users. I think that this fills a gap between existing negligent driving offences and more serious driving offences. I think that the Bill is one important way of generating behaviour change in road users to look out for vulnerable road users and modify their driving behaviour so that vulnerable road users are protected and can use our roads safely. I think that the best way of achieving this behaviour change is for penalties to be kept out of courts and for the police to have the power to impose penalties by issue of infringement notices. This will streamline the process and bring the consequences closer to the commitment of the offence. To achieve this, penalties should be limited to fines and loss of license points. Having other penalties that would be imposed by courts will take longer and therefore be less immediate and may not result in behaviour change and protection of vulnerable road users in the longer term. Also court processes are more expensive for all concerned. Costs to police and prosecutors etc in bringing a case to Court may be considered not to be worth the benefit gained compared to pursuing other matters, so many cases may not result in any consequences which would defeat the purpose of the Bill, to protect vulnerable road users.

Paul Brunton

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