

Speed Cameras - A clearer view

The NSW Speed Camera Strategy aims to improve the transparency and understanding of the use of speed cameras in NSW through increased community engagement and education. Community support and awareness are fundamental components of road safety programs. They help to deter speeding and influence drivers to improve their behaviour.

Few motorists know more than 70 per cent of all licence holders in NSW have no demerit points and around 99 per cent of drivers who drive past a speed camera are not infringed for speeding. This reflects the broad level of compliance with speed limits at camera locations and the often over-inflated perception speed cameras are infringing a large proportion of NSW drivers. A key component of the new strategy will be about promoting the effectiveness of cameras in achieving even greater compliance across the whole road network and in turn reducing speed-related crashes, fatalities and injuries.

One of the key requirements of NSW customers and stakeholders is to ensure camera enforcement programs are fair, credible, effective and meet community expectations.

Keys features of the NSW Speed Camera Strategy

Monitoring and Reporting on Speed Camera Performance

A key recommendation of the Auditor-General's audit of speed cameras is the publication of trends in crashes, revenue and speeding or infringement data for speed cameras used in NSW. This information will be published once a year online to reassure the community that speed camera performance and effectiveness is being monitored.

Published reviews of the NSW mobile speed camera program and the red-light speed (safety) camera program have also been completed and are available online.

Signage enhancements

It is recognised that the community has raised concerns about the content and placement of warning signage for both mobile speed camera vehicles and safety (red-light/speed) cameras.

Mobile speed cameras

Vehicle markings will be enhanced to clearly nominate the vehicle as a 'Mobile Speed Camera' and an additional warning sign will be placed on the approach to enforcement up to 250m before the camera vehicle.

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Red-light speed (safety) cameras

Existing red-light speed (safety) camera signage will be replaced with enhanced signage that says 'red light speed camera ahead', to clarify to drivers they enforce both red-light and speeding offences. The signage will also include the prevailing speed limit and where a camera is in a school zone it will indicate the variable speed limit is enforced.

Safer Roads Website

The NSW Centre for Road Safety regularly receives requests from the community to have a speed camera installed in their local area. A new initiative of the NSW Speed Camera Strategy will be the ability for NSW residents to nominate locations for speed camera enforcement. The community will be able to nominate speed camera locations online for the NSW Centre for Road Safety to review against crash criteria, helping prioritise enforcement. Therefore a proportion of speed camera locations will be chosen by the community.

Redirecting traffic fine revenue camera revenue to fund road safety improvements

In many other Australian jurisdictions, money obtained from traffic fines is redirected to fund road safety initiatives. A recent petition of NRMA Motoring and Services members tabled in Parliament supported the hypothecation of fine revenue from driving offences to fund road safety initiatives. The NSW Government has listened to the community and will use fine revenue to directly fund road safety measures such as road safety engineering work, road safety education programs, public education campaigns, additional enforcement by the NSW Police Force and other significant road safety initiatives.

By redirecting revenue collected from speed camera fines drivers can feel confident that this money is being used to improve the safety of roads and road users.

Safety Review of Fixed Speed Cameras

While overall the Auditor-General's 2011 report into speed cameras found that they do improve road safety, the report identified 38 locations where fixed speed cameras were not delivering the expected road safety benefit to the community.

The Government is committed to ensuring that speed cameras are only put in places where they can improve road safety and as a result the NSW Government switched off the ineffective cameras. A detailed review of each

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location has been carried out to investigate other road safety measures which could be introduced to reduce crash risks at these locations.

The safety work recommended includes a variety of improvements such as road shoulder widening, pedestrian facilities, improved line marking, gateway treatments, additional signs, installing police enforcement bays and speed zone reviews.

Any future relocation of cameras or the use of other types of camera enforcement will be guided by the criteria in the overarching *NSW Speed Camera Strategy*.