

ROAD TRANSPORT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT ~~Tabled, by leave,~~

(SPEED CAMERA DETECTION) BILL 2024

for Minister Moraitis
Staffell
Clerk of the Parliaments
26 / 9 / 24

Statement of Public Interest

Need: Why is the policy needed based on factual evidence and stakeholder input?

Speeding is the single biggest contributor to death and injury on NSW roads, contributing to approximately 41 per cent of road fatalities each year. In February 2024 the NSW Government held a Road Safety Forum, bringing together interstate and international experts to discuss trauma challenges in NSW and safety countermeasures.

As an outcome from the Forum the NSW Government is proposing a trial to expand the use of average speed cameras, which currently apply to heavy vehicles only, to include enforcement of light vehicles at two (of the current 31) average speed enforcement locations in NSW.

NSW is the only jurisdiction in the world known to systematically limit enforcement to a subset of vehicles only. Of all the fatalities and serious injuries across NSW's existing 31 average speed camera enforcement lengths over the period 2018-2022, 79% did not involve any heavy vehicles. International research consistently shows that average speed enforcement for all vehicles leads to significant reductions in road-related injuries and fatalities.

Objectives: What is the policy's objective couched in terms of the public interest?

The Bill, which will enable the trial of average speed enforcement for light vehicles, will seek to improve safety outcomes for the NSW community by reducing speeding behaviour by light vehicles and related road trauma.

Options: What alternative policies and mechanisms were considered in advance of the Bill?

The Bill supports the NSW Government's commitment to reduce trauma on NSW roads following the Road Safety Forum held in Sydney in February 2024. It is being delivered alongside a range of other complementary measures in the Road Safety Action Plan 2026, including road infrastructure, vehicle and behavioural measures as part of a Safe System approach to road safety.

A trial of average speed enforcement for all vehicles, to explore the benefits and future potential in NSW, can only be achieved with legislative amendment.

The key alternative to this Bill is not making the legislative changes and continuing with average speed camera enforcement of heavy vehicles only. However, a clear theme from the Forum, supported by safety experts and practitioners, was that restricting average speed camera enforcement may be failing to maximise safety benefits for the NSW community.

Speed camera enforcement in NSW also complements, rather than being an alternative to, police enforcement. Existing road safety enforcement by NSW Police can continue in the trial lengths, and more broadly across the network to deter unsafe behaviour and deliver road safety outcomes.

Analysis: What were the pros/cons and benefits/costs of each option considered?

The trial provides an opportunity to test the benefits of average speed camera enforcement for light vehicles in the NSW context. An independent review of the trial will be completed, which will inform any decisions about the future of average speed cameras across the network post-trial.

The cost of the trial is low as existing average speed camera systems are installed and can be adapted to support light vehicle enforcement. All fines will be directed to the Community Road Safety Fund to offset trial costs and fund other road safety initiatives.

Pathway: What are the timetable and steps for the policy's rollout and who will administer it?

The Bill will commence on assent, however a development period will be required to deliver necessary supporting changes before the trial starts. The start date of the trial is yet to be determined but will be clearly communicated to the public.

Enforcement will be preceded with a warning letter period before issuing infringements and a communication and education campaign will be implemented to increase awareness and promote compliance with the trial.

Transport is responsible for the management of speed camera program in NSW and will manage and monitor the trial. Fines will be issued through established processes managed by Revenue NSW.

Consultation: Were the views of affected stakeholders sought and considered in making the policy?

This Bill is a direct outcome of the Road Safety Forum. The Road Safety Forum brought together over 150 attendees, including interstate and international experts to discuss trauma challenges in NSW and safety countermeasures. There was clear support at the Forum for further considering average speed cameras as a safety measure for all vehicles.

In conjunction with the Road Safety Forum in February 2024, a Community Attitudes Survey (Survey) was conducted to provide an opportunity for individuals outside of the Forum to have a say on road safety issues that were most important to them. The Survey found that 68 per cent of survey respondents thought that average speed cameras were important in making NSW roads safer.

Stakeholder and community views will also be considered as part of the review of the planned trial.

**MINISTER FOR ROADS
MINISTER FOR REGIONAL TRANSPORT AND ROADS
September 2024**