Aspects of road safety in Australia Submission 13

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To:
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport.
P.O. Box 6100.
Parliament House.
Canberra.
A.C.T. 2600
From:
Graeme B Densley
07/02/2015.
Dear Secretary,
please find enclosed a copy of the letter that was hand delivered to the then Premier of Victoria, Mr Denis Napthine. Although the contents of the letter may not necessarily meet the Committee's terms of reference, it does to some extent relay the utter frustration felt over the continual exploitation by the authorities regarding the never-ending issue of road safety.
It is for this reason this letter and its message is being passed onto this committee for
inclusion in its deliberations.
Yours sincerely,
Graeme B Densley
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To:

Mr Denis Napthine M.P.

Member for South West Coast

94 Liebig Street

Warrnambool

Victoria 3280

From:

Graeme B Densley

12/09/2014

Dear Mr Napthine,

This is a very short and quick letter offering my personal opinions in relation to the issue of the States use of speed cameras and my not unreasonable thoughts regarding their validity and use. Every time I hear any mention of speed cameras or hear reports from those who wish to validate their usefulness including their purported positive effect on the motoring community, my blood boils. First and foremost it must be said that as far as I am concerned the majority of the motoring community (especially ones who are not intimidated or easily swayed by authority) can clearly see what the true purpose of these cameras for what it is – fleecing cash from motorists to make up for shortfalls in the State's coffers - period.

In indifference to the reports that have been written supporting the use and benefits of traffic cameras, it can be argued that the implementation and continued use including expansion of this system, is based solely upon deception. This theory is rather simple and easy to apply. First, formulate a lie. Then get enough people in authority (for example, ministers, public servants, academics) to agree to the overall scheme and the methology to be applied to implement the programme; this now relies upon citizens reliance that those with authority can be trusted in that they (falsely) honestly believe that the proposal is in the public interest. Then apply a generous amount of deceit in selling the programme. Sad thing is that the deceit has been so successful the deceivers are now the deceived as well. They actually believe that the system has an actual social benefit. They have tricked themselves into being true believers of a flawed campaign.

If the State wanted to have sufficient funds for fixing up the goat tracks we are forced to drive on it could have saved hundreds of millions of dollars by simply cancelling the camera program paid for out of public monies. Just think of it, hundreds of millions of

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dollars flushed away to support a lie whilst propping up systemic deception. Those that set out to dupe the people ended up being duped themselves.

It matters not how clever the construction of sentences or nice flowery words used or the current or past status of those who either oversee the programme or espouse its benefits. It has and never will in the public eye enjoy any form of legitimacy. The more intense the support, the more foolish and unbelievable the spruikers. This rejection by the community has resulted in a continual chase by devotees continually searching for greater credibility in the public arena with more outlandish claims only to find the majority of the seats vacant due to rightful cynicism by all who see through this sham.

According to the newspapers the State now wants to introduce cameras that can monitor multiple lanes in all-weather at any hour. More indicators of the desperation to generate more cash and really annoy the public. Additionally they want to place more point-to-point cameras on all major highways. What for? Too catch motorist doing a few measly kilometres over the open highway speed limit when most are too frightened to go much over the limit anyway for fear of draconian punishment. And good luck to them if they camera surf.

The latest is the Assistant Commissioner of Police (traffic) Robert Hill in an apparent 'mega blitz' wants to lock down the State so he can torment motorists on a larger scale. I often wondered if the change of the colour of the police uniform heralded a change in its culture and how it would treat the citizens of Victoria. This oppressive and aggressive behaviour towards citizens merely confirms my suspicions that we live in a concentration camp. The guards have changed the colour of their uniform and we must now live in a constant state of fear. If you upset the State you are going to pay for it. For it and only it can decide your freedoms and happiness. It has really destroyed the enjoyment of motoring.

Is it also 'chilling' that motor cyclists don't have front number plates. So make them mandatory, it will decrease their accident rate. Is this supposed to be believable? No really, am I and others supposed to actually believe that a front number plate will make bikes less likely to crash! Of course it will. All twenty thousand of them.

I am not a member of any organisation or have an agenda to run. I am university educated so I am not dill. If the State wishes to continually abuse the trust the people have granted to the State to govern fairly and on their behalf without using constant intimidation and fear then it is about time it took the boot of our throats and stop treating the people as half-wits. And will the State please stop abusing the word 'safe'.

I am simply letting you know (without offending you) what I think and how I feel on this subject.

Yours sincerely,

Graeme B Densley