

LOCATION OF THE SPEED CAMERA VAN AND SITE ENQUIRIES

Within each Police Region, a Regional Speed Management committee selects speed camera sites for that Region. Each Committee comprises of representatives from Queensland Police Service, Queensland Transport, Main Roads, the relevant Local Government Authority and the RACQ. The Committee's decisions are based on the number of speed-related and casualty crashes occurring at particular locations. This information is drawn from the Queensland Transport crash database of accident information.

Speed Camera zones and sites are primarily determined on the basis of location which have a history of crashes. Secondary criteria for the determination of Speed Camera zones and sites may include validated public complaints concerning speeding vehicles, knowledge of road-safety related problems and road-work sites in order to ensure the safety of road-workers.

A zone is one kilometer in diameter in an urban area and five kilometres in diameter in a rural area. **Sites are the locations within a zone where a Speed Camera will operate.**

For enquiries relating to the placement of the speed camera sign or the speed limit signage please refer to the 'Signs (speed camera and speed restriction Signs)' Option.

1. THE CAMERA PHOTOGRAPHED MY VEHICLE WHEN I WAS TRAVELLING DOWNHILL.

Downhill grades are classified as 'restricted site locations'. **It is important to understand that this does not prohibit the use of a speed detection device on a downhill grade, but it does mean that such use will be limited.**

Speed detection on a downhill grade is justified on the basis that serious accidents have occurred at that location and there are no other means of preventing vehicles from speeding (i.e. through publicity or road engineering solutions).

The Queensland Police Service values the support it receives from the community. The enforcement of traffic legislation is an area of responsibility which the Service recognises has the potential to cause considerable damage to the reputation of the Service. The restricted use of speed detection devices on downhill grades is aimed at enhancing community support, whilst ensuring that appropriate enforcement and deterrent strategies are maintained in the interest of public safety.

2. MY VEHICLE PICKED UP SPEED ONLY BECAUSE I WAS DRIVING DOWN A HILL. CAN THE INFRINGEMENT NOTICE BE WITHDRAWN?

No. The physical characteristics of the road should not control the speed of vehicles travelling upon it. It is prudent for a driver to utilise the braking system fitted to their vehicle if the downgrade is such that the vehicle could move faster than the stated speed limit.

3. I DID NOT SEE THE SPEED CAMERA AS THE POLICE OFFICER WAS HIDING.

This is not a reason for exceeding the posted speed limit. It is not the policy of the Queensland Police Service to deliberately conceal speed cameras at this time. Authorised operators of these devices are instructed in the correct set up and operating procedures.

While the philosophy of the speed camera program is based on general deterrence using marked speed camera vehicles, it would not be appropriate for drivers who are exceeding the speed limit to have prior warning of a speed camera and thus avoid detection.

Successful traffic policing relies upon a mixture of general deterrence (to encourage drivers to comply with traffic laws) and specific deterrence (the penalising of those drivers who refuse to obey traffic laws). The Queensland Police Service recognises that there is a need to strike a balance between the two types of deterrence.

4. THE SPEED CAMERA VAN WAS PARKED ILLEGALLY.

Section 144 of the *Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995* extends exculpatory provisions to police officers who are required to breach the provisions of the Traffic Act whilst exercising a power of performing a function under that act or any other act. Section 307 of the *Transport Operations (Road Use Management – Road Rules) Regulation 1999* provides further exculpation to police and emergency vehicles which are required to be stopped or parked in circumstances which would normally constitute a breach of the regulations.

The provisions of the *Workplace Health and Safety Act* surrounding the safety and welfare of police officers as well as members of the community should always be taken into account when operating such equipment. Authorised Speed Camera Operators receive extensive training in the correct set up and operating procedures for the use of the equipment.

Therefore, by virtue of the provisions of the law, Speed Camera Vehicles may be parked on the footpath, centre islands, side of the road or in ‘no stopping’ areas.

5. WHY WAS THE SPEED CAMERA ON THAT STRETCH OF ROAD? OR I HAVE NEVER SEEN ANY ACCIDENTS ALONG THAT STRETCH OF ROAD SO WHY WAS THE SPEED CAMERA THERE?

Speed Camera zones and sites are approved by local Traffic Advisory Committees which consists of representatives from the Queensland Police Service, Queensland Transport, Main Roads, RACQ and local authorities.

Speed Camera zones and sites are primarily determined on the basis of locations which have a history of crashes. Secondary criteria for the determination of Speed Camera zones and sites may include validated public complaints concerning speeding vehicles, knowledge of road safety related problems and road work sites in order to ensure the safety of road workers.

The section of road is within a crash zone and although an accident may not have occurred at the exact spot of the camera location, excessive speed may have been a contributing factor to road crashes within the zone.

6. WHERE ARE THE SPEED CAMERAS LOCATED?

Speed Camera Sites are located in over 4000 locations throughout Queensland. The underpinning philosophy of Queensland's Speed Camera Program is general deterrence, designed to create the perception in the minds of motorists that speed cameras may be deployed *anywhere, anytime*. The deterrent effect is fundamentally linked to the random scheduling of speed camera operations – the unpredictability of which is intended to encourage motorists to adopt more responsible driving behaviour at all times while on the road.