

SIGNS **(SPEED CAMERA SIGNS AND SPEED RESTRICTION SIGNS)**

Speeding is considered by the Queensland Police Service to be a life endangering offence, which not only endangers the driver but other persons using the roads. Many fatal and serious traffic accidents that occur each year are directly attributable to motorists who exceed the posted speed limit.

The underpinning philosophy of the camera detected offences program is general deterrence. This deterrent effect is enhanced and fundamentally linked to the random scheduling of speed camera operations. Designed to create the perception in the minds of motorists who choose to exceed the speed limit that they may be caught, a more responsible approach to driver behaviour is promoted and encouraged.

'SPEED CAMERA IN USE' SIGNS

Under the guidelines of the Queensland Police Service Traffic Manual, section 6.6.17, the sign may be placed between five and thirty metres past the speed camera in the direction of travel of target vehicles.

The purpose of the sign is to alert motorists, who have had their speed checked, of the presence of radar to enable them to appropriately adjust their speed to a safer level in instances where they are exceeding the speed limit. It is a Service requirement for the sign to be in place. **There is no legislative requirement for the *Speed Camera in Use* sign to be used on a speed camera deployment.**

Please note the 'speed camera in use' sign is generally not visible on the photographic evidence supplied on the infringement notice.

1. THE 'SPEED CAMERA IN USE' SIGN WAS NOT VISIBLE.

As outlined above there is no legislative requirement for the 'speed camera in use' sign to be placed on a speed camera deployment. The placement of the sign is a Queensland Police Service Policy issue. Therefore, the absence of the 'speed camera in use' sign does not render the infringement notice invalid.

With various advertising campaigns including 'Anywhere Anytime' and 'Every K Over is a Killer', and with speed cameras used throughout Queensland since 1997 the motoring public have had ample warning about the dangers of speeding and the use of Speed Cameras.

There are ample fixed signs in various locations throughout Queensland advising the motoring public that speed cameras and red light cameras are used in Queensland.

2. WHY WAS THE 'SPEED CAMERA IN USE' SIGN SITUATED AFTER THE SPEED CAMERA UNIT?

As outlined above there is no legislative requirement for the 'speed camera in use' sign to be placed on a speed camera deployment. The placement of the sign is a Queensland Police Service Policy issue. The camera operator must position the 'speed camera in use' sign in an area where the safety of road-users will not be compromised.

In some instances where the 'speed camera in use' sign is positioned after the speed camera unit signifies the camera is operating in a bi-directional mode, detecting vehicles exceeding the speed limit in both directions of travel.

The philosophy of the speed camera program is based on general deterrence. 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 only. The speed camera program aim is one of changing driver behaviour and public attitude towards the unacceptability of exceeding the speed limit.

Successful traffic policing relies upon a mixture of general deterrence (to encourage drivers to comply with traffic laws) and the specific deterrence (the penalising of those drivers who refuse to obey traffic laws).

The onus is on the motoring public to obey all traffic rules and regulations at all time. The absence of a 'speed camera in use' sign DOES NOT prohibit a driver detected exceeding the speed limit from being issued with a camera detected offence notice.

SPEED RESTRICTION SIGNS

The Police Service has a duty to ensure compliance with speed limits throughout the state however the Service has no involvement in predetermining and setting these limits.

Should you wish to clarify the positioning or relocation of any speed limit sign you are required to contact the relevant roads authority. These authorities can include; local councils or the Department of Main Roads.

1. I WAS UNFAMILIAR WITH THE AREA AND DID NOT SEE THE SPEED SIGN. OR

I THOUGHT THE SPEED FOR THIS AREA WAS...?

Prior to the commencement of speed camera operations, the operator must confirm and certify that the speed signage for the area is clearly visible to any diligent drivers.

You are further advised that as a licenced driver, you must be familiar with all rules and laws pertaining to being responsible for a vehicle on the Queensland road network. One of these laws relates to travelling on a stretch of road that is not speed limited, and is drawn from Section 25 of the *Transport Operations (Road Use Management – Road Rules) Regulation 1999*. This section states that a driver must assume a ‘default speed limit’ for a length of road that is not speed limited. You are advised that in built-up areas throughout Queensland, the default speed limit is 50km/h. For non built-up areas, the default speed is 100km/h. Care must be taken to ensure that the length of road is not within a school zone or shared zone, in which case the speed to travel would be much lower than 50km/h.