

MEDIA RELEASE

20 March 2014

Speed Cameras in the ACT

ACT Auditor-General, Dr Maxine Cooper, today presented a performance audit report on **Speed Cameras in the ACT** to the Speaker for tabling in the ACT Legislative Assembly.

Dr Cooper says, 'there is a persistent speeding problem in the ACT, according to survey and infringement data, and this calls into question the collective and individual effectiveness of the ACT's four speed camera systems (i.e. mobile speed cameras, speed and red light cameras, mid-block cameras and point-to-point cameras)'.

Three fundamental questions were considered in the audit:

1. Are there the right number of speed cameras in the right places?
2. How effective are speed cameras in the ACT in reducing speed?
3. Are speed cameras reliable?

Dr Cooper found that:

1. The ACT is unlikely to have the right number of speed cameras in the right places.
2. The effectiveness of speed cameras in reducing speed has not been established. Also, there has been no 'network-representative, speed monitoring system' which could be used to gauge the extent of the ACT's speeding problem. Therefore the extent of the problem or the impact of the Government's speed cameras on road safety cannot be determined.
3. Speed camera reliability is poor, particularly for mobile speed cameras. This has led to escalating maintenance costs, limited camera availability and a greater number of rejected infringements. Poor reliability has had no effect on the validity of infringements issued as the Government's verification (adjudication) procedures are robust. However, there is a high rejection rate of infringements in the verification process and this indicates inefficiencies.

Problems and uncertainties exist for each of the ACT's four speed camera systems:

- Mobile speed camera coverage is limited and overt which means the Government's desired 'anytime, anywhere' effect whereby all motorists in all locations comply with posted speed signs is unlikely to be achieved;
- Speed and red light speed cameras may not be located at the highest priority sites as their effectiveness has not been comprehensively evaluated;



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- Mid-block speed cameras are unlikely to be sited to achieve the best road safety results;
- Point-to-point speed cameras sited in the ACT are experimental as there is little or no evidence to support their use in an urban environment or for such short sections of road. There is no evaluation plan for determining their effectiveness. Furthermore, their cost effectiveness is questionable and it is likely that there has been a three-fold increase in the cost per km of road treated from the initial design stage through to implementation.

The Auditor-General has made 16 recommendations for action to address audit findings. A key recommendation addresses the need for the ACT to develop a speed camera strategy.

'There is no strategic basis for making decisions for integrating the use of the ACT's four speed camera systems as the ACT Government does not have a speed camera strategy and its draft ACT road safety camera strategy (September 2013) is not a strategy', Dr Cooper said.

Copies of the report are available from the ACT Auditor-General's Office website www.audit.act.gov.au and the Office (please phone 6207 0833 or go to 11 Moore Street, Canberra City)