

ROAD SAFETY — MOBILE SPEED CAMERA OPERATORS

397. Hon NIGEL HALLETT to the minister representing the Minister for Police:

Could the minister please explain the reasons behind the new rule changes that allow the removal of warning signs advising motorists they have passed through mobile speed cameras? If the reason is to provide some protection to the mobile speed camera operators, could the minister please explain —

- (1) How many incidents have there been in which mobile speed camera operators have been threatened?
- (2) Have there been reports of personal injury or assaults to operators; and, if so, how many?
- (3) Is it fair to say the message of speed and road safety is being lost and is now seen as just revenue raising?

The PRESIDENT: I think the Attorney General will answer that question in his representative capacity, but the last aspect of that question is an opinion.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:

On behalf of the Minister for Police, I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

Current police policy states that a speed camera advisory sign may be placed approximately 30 metres after a mobile speed camera as a courtesy sign used at the discretion of the camera operator. This discretion should take into account the safety of the camera operator, members of the public and the equipment. Compliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984 has resulted in a limited deployment of the signs. Safety issues assessed by the operators include: proximity to traffic flow and inherent risks to safety; personal safety as single-crew operators; operations in hours of darkness; elevated risks from increasing prevalence of issue-motivated individuals and groups opposed to speed camera operations—I take it that that is jargonese for people who want to punch out camera operators simply because they are operating speed cameras; and, general risk of assault or attack from disgruntled motorists. As speed camera operators operate on a single officer deployment basis, the decision to utilise the advisory sign remains with the individual camera operator based on a risk assessment consistent with the provisions of the OSH act.

In answer to the specific questions —

- (1) In the period 26 October 2011 to 1 April 2015 there have been 67 incidents.
- (2) In the period 26 October 2011 to 1 April 2015, four camera operators have been physically assaulted.
- (3) All revenue collected from the payment of infringements is deposited into the road trauma trust account, and these funds are used to support various road safety strategies.