

By Marty Still

Speed cameras and other revenue raising devices.

There used to be a time when police had to establish that you intended to commit a road crime. Years ago they had to follow you for a specified distance so that they knew you were deliberately flouting the law. In those days when you were sprung speeding you just said "Okay, fair cop".

Let's face it, it's perfectly normal for your speed to fluctuate, you do not, (or should not) spend your entire time whilst driving looking intently at your speedo. And why should you have to. As you come up to a hill you slow down until you pick it up again, as you go over the top you speed up a little until you pick it up. It's normal, it's natural! What isn't natural is having zero tolerance and speed cameras deliberately set up in places where they know full well people will "drift over the speed limit - albeit for a brief period of time - because of the nature of the road. Click!

You're gone, \$200.00 and three points.

Nobody can tell me this is about road safety, this is about revenue. On ACA for the past two nights there have been many examples of this revenue raising.

A girl received a speeding fine when her car was clearly on the back of a flatbed tow truck.

Road safety? No, revenue raising?

A guy received two speeding fines both for different speeds at exactly the same time, at exactly the same place by exactly the same camera.

Road safety? No, revenue raising?

A guy travelled in the "T" lane. 4 infringements notices at \$256.00 each, four losses of three points and, consequently, loss of license. This guy could possibly lose his income, and so his house, his wife and family will suffer, all for what. Was this guy a speeding driver, a dangerous driver, a drunken driver, an unsafe car driver? No! He was travelling in the transit lane for 4 minutes. **Does that tell you how many cameras are out there?** Put him up against the wall and shoot him, that'll show him.

Road safety? No, revenue raising?

A mate of mine recently got himself "Clicked". He said, yep, I was over the limit, fair cop but I definitely wasn't going that fast. So he paid his \$38.00 application fee and made a request through the "Freedom of Information Act" that a copy of the cameras current calibration certificate be supplied to him. Hasn't this opened a can of worms?

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He was “Clicked” in Queensland so he got on to Qld police, they said he had to talk to Qld transport. Qld transport said it has nothing to do with them that it is a police matter. Eventually he got on to someone who said that he felt he was not entitled to the information he requested, despite the fact that the “Freedom of Information Act” clearly states the following. **speed computing software analyses the speed readings form the Doppler signal and assesses these readings for consistency and spread. When the software checks are passed the Gatso Type 24 speed camera then takes a photograph of the target vehicle. Importantly, if the software checks are not passed, for example if there are two speed readings indicating two vehicles in the beam at the same time, no photograph is taken or no speed is shown.**

3. CAN I OBTAIN A COPY OF THE CAMERA CALIBRATION CERTIFICATE OR OTHER DOCUMENTATION RELEVANT TO THE CAMERA OR DEPLOYMENT?

Yes. This information is available. To request the information you are required to make an application to the Freedom of Information Unit, Queensland Police Service, GPO Box 1440, Brisbane QLD 4001.

Please note, administration fees do apply for Freedom of Information documentation.

The Queensland Police Service will produce this evidence in court as a part of the prosecution case.

This is where it starts to get interesting. The guy he has been communicating with at Qld police has taken to calling him on the phone, several times, my mate, being a bit smarter than they think he is, said, “I am writing to you so you give it all to me in writing”. Apparently it has thrown them into chaos having someone make a rightful request of them. This is still going on so the outcome will be interesting and posted right here.

It is interesting that for some time now, in Australian law, there has been this thing about “Give reason why your license should not be revoked”. They had to this years ago because too many people were losing their license for no good reason. Believe me, if ever I am put into a position where they say to me “Give reason why your license should not be revoked” when I have done nothing more wrong than driving in a transit lane, my response will be as follows.

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No, you show reason why I should keep my license. Without it I have no job, so I have to legitimately go on the doll. (For the first time in my life). I will not be paying registration fees, CTP, insurance. I will not be buying fuel, tyres or oil and will hence be paying to GST or fuel tax. Who actually loses out of this, the government of course.

These people have become so efficient at “catching the road criminals” that good drivers, careful drivers, honest people are being put off the road. And the police are so arrogant about it – they are told to be like that.

I mean, is Australia a police state or what?

Years ago I was ticketed by a group of cops for not stopping at a stop sign. Dead right, I did not stop. I had been driving for 35 years and you do reach a point where you drive on autopilot. We all do, we know what is safe and what isn't. These cops had set themselves up at a place where they could watch a "T" intersection where there was clear and unobstructed view both ways. It should not have been a stop sign, it should have been a give way sign – and they know it. They had pulled in a string of people all taking a short cut to a Gold Coast shopping centre. Myself, several older people and a granny who was directly in front of me. This was not about road safety, this was a fat old pig of a cop revenue raising because, being well past his prime, that's about all he was good for.

I believe this is going to come to a head before long. It is well known that two cameras on a single bridge in Sydney is the biggest single revenue raiser in NSW. One guy challenged it in court when sent two tickets for one crossing of the bridge. He claimed, quite rightly, that this was one offence – and the judge agreed.

The cops and powers that be know full well that most of us are just too busy to challenge their authority so they keep pushing harder and harder and are installing more and more cameras for a wider variety of "Crimes". You know, I just don't feel safe anymore with all these "Criminals" on our roads these days.

I would suggest that anyone who gets "Clicked", request a stay of payment as the penalty is in dispute, then get on to the "Freedom of Information" web site, pay your \$38.00 and request a copy of the cameras current calibration certificate. Make sure you do everything in writing and record everything. If someone calls you, make sure you know who called, when they called and makes notes of what they had say.

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If everyone were to do this, they would be so overloaded they won't know what hit them. And you have the right to make that request.

Make no mistake this is not about road safety, if it were I would keep quiet, this is revenue raising and it's time it stopped?

Some time ago in Victoria, when they brought in "zero tolerance", the cops hit the panic button because they would be caught in their own trap.

The cops wanted a blanket exemption because they are, get this, "Chasing criminals". It was overruled in court but I bet most cops down there don't get a ticket.

I used to have some respect for the law but now I don't – I wonder what brought that about. Funny 'bout that!