



Jon Stanhope MLA

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MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AFFAIRS
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS AND HERITAGE

MEMBER FOR GINNINDERRA

Mr Roger Clarke
Chair
Australian Privacy Foundation
Chair@privacy.org.au

Dear Mr Clarke

Thank you for your letter of 21 October 2010 regarding the planned introduction of point to point safety cameras in the ACT.

The moderation of speeds chosen by motorists is critical in establishing a safer road system. Accordingly, best practice speed enforcement measures, such as point to point safety cameras, have been identified as key initiatives to be progressed under the National and ACT Road Safety Strategies.

As you have noted, a Forward Design Study for the introduction of point to point cameras in the ACT has been completed. The Government has released this report and advised that the point to point cameras will be used for speed management, plus the checking of unregistered, stolen and other vehicles of interest.

This additional checking would be similar to ACT Policing's existing use of RAPID (automatic number plate reading) cameras. Immediate processing of the alert is proposed, similar to the "Blacklist-in-Camera" approach described in the Australian Privacy Foundation's Policy Statement.

It is recognised that the introduction of point to point cameras will require amendment to the road transport legislation. The legislative process will include full consideration of privacy, human rights and record keeping implications from the use, storage and disclosure of electronic data. As you have suggested, the preparation of a Privacy Impact Assessment will be considered as part of this process.

I can also understand your concerns about the use of point to point cameras for "mass surveillance" purposes. This is not the Government's intention. Not only would there be significant privacy implications from such an approach, which would need to be stringently justified under the appropriate processes, the data storage implications would be problematic.

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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Thank you also for your suggestion that an audit of speed limits be undertaken prior to deployment of point to point cameras. The Department of Territory and Municipal Services has recently completed a review of speed limits and speed limit signage on the ACT arterial road network, including roads which are potential point to point camera sites.

The review concluded that the speed limit on the majority of arterial roads is appropriate and in line with Australian Standards, but recommended the installation of additional signs to reinforce the speed limits to motorists. A program of signage works to give effect to these recommendations will be complete by the end of November 2010.

Thank you for raising your concerns with me. I trust that the above information provides clarification about the ACT Government's intentions with respect of point to point cameras.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Stanhope', written in a cursive style.

Jon Stanhope MLA
Minister for Transport

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