

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into the Increase in Victoria's Road Toll

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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I have had in mind an idea for some time that I guess plenty of people have had but nothing seems to be proposed. That is, we have thousands of vehicles equipped with dash cameras and no real means of reporting traffic incidents until after an event. We regularly see police calling for anyone with dash camera footage after an incident. We saw this week, after the tragic event that saw 4 police officers killed, some dash cam footage from some weeks earlier that was allegedly the same car doing ridiculous speeds on the same stretch of road. I think there is a chance had that dash cam owner had some form of a reporting line, that footage could have been reported to police for action and, in a best case scenario, that car may not have even been on the road that fateful day. There is no real means or promotion to report such incidents to my knowledge.

I haven't properly brainstormed this but what could be explored is the following:
Citizens could register their dash cameras that meet certain criteria such as picture quality etc. VicPol would have to set minimum acceptable standards.

Citizens will always remain anonymous.

I would like to see every reported incident get a personal response as a matter of policy, whether prosecuted or not.

I would also like to see every successful prosecution means the reporter receives a fee - say \$20.

They could nominate a charity etc.

There would need to be a department set up so citizens could electronically send in footage of incidents. Perhaps a web page to download to or whatever but it needs to be user friendly. That department would quickly become self funded with hope it would reduce as road laws are less frequently broken.

etc, etc, etc

Now in simple terms, all of a sudden we would have thousands of extra eyes on the road with chances for law breakers getting caught many times greater. How many times are we driving when we see some idiot doing something stupid and we ask "where are the police when you need them"? I would estimate in every hour of driving I see 5 or more stupid things - and the worst I see are P platers.

I am confident this will work given the right criteria and support and, who knows, it could contribute to a falling trend of idiots on the road thus contribute towards a decline in road tragedy. There will be detractors, as there always are, but the time is now to do something.