



VICTORIA POLICE

Submission No. LC/14
Received
Road Safety Committee

Christine Nixon APM
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BY:.....

Mr John Eren MP
Chair
Road Safety Committee
Parliament House
Spring Street
East Melbourne, Victoria 3002

Dear Minister Eren

Call for Submission for Inquiry into Improving Safety at Level Crossings

I am writing in response to your letter dated 20 August 2007 inviting a submission from Victoria Police.

Victoria Police is aware of new and developing technologies to improve safety at rail crossings, largely as the result of its participation on the Victorian Rail Crossing Safety Steering Committee.

Victoria Police is not in a position to comment on the application of these technologies within this jurisdiction; however it is committed to fully co-operating with other agencies and departments in the trial of any reasonable technology countermeasures to improve safety at rail level crossings.

Victoria Police is of the view that enhanced driver education and awareness offers significant support to any technology solution. The presence of speed as a causal factor in rail crossing safety is yet to be determined. Whilst it is understood that a nexus to driver speed has not yet been demonstrated, if this can be shown then the application of hand held speed measuring devices and mobile speed cameras as existing enforcement technologies is deemed to be unsatisfactory.

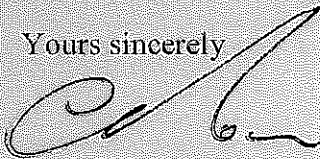
In Victoria there are approximately 2273 railway level crossings, including 2076 in rural areas. The use of held speed measuring devices would require police members to perform duty in newly established speed restriction zones throughout Victoria (including remote and semi-remote rural/regional areas) where traffic flows may deem the placement of police members questionable in light of other existing road trauma priorities. Similarly, the application of mobile speed cameras is questionable

at these locations, which may not comply with the existing deployment policy and guidelines.

The Victoria Police Traffic Camera Office, in company with the Infringement Management and Enforcement Services Unit (IMES) of Department of Justice will be conducting trials at both Nunawading and Bagshot railway crossings commencing shortly. There is a project team within IMES managing the exploration of what technology may be appropriate for use at level crossings to ensure compliance with speed and other crossing offences.

If you require any further information on the matter, please contact Acting Senior Sergeant Geoff Maclean, Legal & Corporate Policy (☎9247 6716).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christine Nixon', written over the typed name.

Christine Nixon APM
Chief Commissioner

1 / 10 / 07.