

24 June 2024

Safer roads for regional and rural Queenslanders

- Additional speed camera trailers will commence operations from enforcement bases in Gympie from 1 July 2024.
- Speeding behaviour is a major contributor to serious crashes in Queensland.
- Regional Queenslanders are disproportionately involved in serious crashes.
- Motorists doing the wrong thing should expect to be caught anywhere, anytime.

Starting from 1 July 2024, the roads around Gympie are set to see enhanced enforcement with the introduction of additional speed camera trailers as part of the Queensland Government's Transportable Road Safety Camera (TRSC) program.

These new trailers are a measure to combat the prevalent issue of speeding, a significant factor in serious crashes within the state, particularly in regional areas where such incidents are unfortunately more common.

The TRSC are deployed to Queensland roads – particularly outside of urban areas – where there are a disproportionately high number of fatalities and serious injuries.

These cameras extend the existing trailer-mounted speed enforcement that started in South-East Queensland in 2017 and expanded to regional and rural Queensland in mid-2023.

The first round of cameras revealed excessive speeding behaviour, with hundreds of motorists exceeding the speed limit by more than 40km/h and multiple instances of motorists travelling double the speed limit.

Encouragingly, the cameras have been successful at deterring motorists from speeding, with more than 99 per cent of motorists passing these cameras doing the right thing along with a significant reduction in motorists speeding by more than 40km/h over the limit.

The trailer mounted speed cameras are highly visible – bright yellow in colour with a blue and yellow checker pattern - and enforce speed limits in both directions of travel, in all weather conditions, day and night.

Speeding continues to be one of the major killers on Queensland roads, with regional Queenslanders disproportionately involved in serious crashes.

Two thirds of total road fatalities and 58 per cent of speed-related fatalities in Queensland occur in regional or remote areas.

Last year, Queensland experienced some of the worst road trauma in over a decade with 276 lives lost and preliminary data indicating the state will see more than 8000 serious injuries occurring on our roads this year.

Across the Gympie enforcement area – in 2023 alone – there were over 60 speed camera criteria-related crashes, with over 800 people seriously injured from 2018 – 2022.

The Queensland Government is committed to reducing road trauma and is investing \$1.8 billion in road safety initiatives over the next four years.

The Queensland government is guided by the principle that “Road safety is everyone’s issue and everyone’s responsibility” .

Quotes attributable to a Department of Transport and Main Roads spokesperson:

"The Queensland Government continues to look for new opportunities to reduce the incidence of road trauma and keep all Queenslanders safe on our roads.

"Regional Queenslanders are disproportionately affected by crashes and speed related fatalities, and this has significant impacts to families and to the community.

"Speed enforcement is the most effective way to improve speed limit compliance. In surveys, Queensland speeders were more likely to suggest that the risk of receiving a speeding infringement was a greater influence on their decision to speed or not than the risk of having a crash.

"It's never safe to speed and we're committed to reducing the number of lives lost on our roads as a result of this type of behavior.

"If you speed on Queensland roads you can expect to be caught – anywhere, anytime.

"Penalties are in place to save lives, not to raise revenue. We would prefer no money was collected if it meant everyone was driving safely within the speed limit. Money collected from camera detection infringements in Queensland is invested back into funding road safety programs, research, and education.

"Whether you're travelling on a main road, back road or highway, keep an eye on the speedometer and stay safe for yourself and others sharing the network.

"Speeding is never okay and if caught you'll face a hefty fine and demerit points.

"The transportable cameras are highly visible and it's hoped they will be a strong visual deterrent to speeding and ultimately improve safety on our roads.

"Every life lost or impaired on Queensland roads is a tragedy. Our vision is zero deaths and serious injuries on Queensland Roads by 2050."

Explainer/fast fact and or further information (when required/relevant):

- Transportable speed cameras are funded by the Camera Detected Offence Program, which uses money collected from camera fines to fund important road safety improvements, initiatives and education programs.
- Speed remains one of the Fatal Five contributing factors in fatal crashes. In 2023, 276 people were killed on Queensland roads. This is 21 fewer than were killed in 2022. Thirty percent of the 2023 fatalities resulted from crashes involving speeding motorists.
- Research and data shows that people in regional and rural areas are disproportionately impacted by road crashes. In fact, between 2017-2022, nearly 50 per cent of serious crashes in Queensland occurred in regional, remote or very remote areas.
- The effectiveness of speed camera enforcement in achieving road trauma reductions is supported by a large, indisputable body of research and evidence from international and domestic jurisdictions. In 2021, the Camera Detected Offence Program was associated with saving 1,191 casualty crashes.
- Transportable Road Safety Cameras (TRSCs) are reliable, accurate and do not replace uniformed officers, instead freeing them up for other duties that also serve their communities.
- **Speed camera criteria:** The criteria focus on the number of crashes at a location in the last 5 years, causes of the crashes at the location and the severity of the crashes at the location.

More information online: <https://www.qld.gov.au/transport/safety/fines/speed/transportable>.

ENDS

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