

SPEED CAMERAS

Tuesday, 24 July 2007

South Australians have become cynical about the placement of speed cameras; it has even been suggested by some that it has more to do with revenue raising than monitoring the speed of vehicles travelling on the road. In that vein, my questions are:

1. Are there any protocols or formal policies in place that decide the placement of speed cameras; if so, is the policy to place them in the areas where speed-related accidents most regularly occur, or is the policy to place cameras in areas where the highest number of offenders are caught?

2. If protocols do exist, will the minister table the protocols for the placement of speed cameras?

The Hon. CARMEL ZOLLO (Minister for Road Safety): I am sorry for the cynicism of the honourable member in relation to this most important question. All anti-speeding moneys go into road safety initiatives in the state, and I ask honourable members to remember that. As to the placement of speed cameras, certainly with respect to fixed cameras they are placed in relation to crash history: it is not where the most amount of revenue can be raised. In relation to police operations, that is something the police decide. I know that last year there was a certain amount of criticism in regard to the police on Gorge Road. Seriously, I think that none of us should apologise for that; if people are losing their lives or being seriously injured on our roads why are we apologising? If people obey the road rules, they have nothing to fear. It is as simple as that. It is about safety. You should not even be asking that question. Of course it is about safety. Look at the facts. Speed kills. It is as simple as that. It contributes to road trauma in this state, whether it be death or serious injury. Where the fixed speed cameras are placed is in relation to crash history and data. At the operational level I would not interfere with the police, as those decisions are made by them for their own good reasons, again because of crash data history. I would not interfere with that. All anti-speeding money goes

into the community road safety fund, which is used for the betterment of the community. Every effort we make has contributed to lowering the road toll in the state.

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD: By way of a supplementary question, will the minister agree to table the protocols or procedures dictating the placement of speed cameras?

The Hon. CARMEL ZOLLO: As I said in relation to the police, I suspect that it is an operational decision, so I may have some trouble obtaining that information. I refer the honourable member to the Estimates Committees of last year where the then deputy commissioner John White responded to the opposition member on how they make those decisions. I am happy to ensure he gets a copy of that. In relation to departmental protocol, I have outlined what it is, but I can bring that information back to him.