



Minister for Police; Emergency Services; Road Safety
Leader of the House in the Legislative Assembly

Our Ref: 31-09821

Mr Glenn Secco
President
Australian Drivers' Association Inc.
PO Box 1110
SUBIACO WA 6904

Dear Mr Secco

Thank you for your further letter calling for investigation into the use of Safety Warning Systems (SWS) in Western Australia and the proposed ban on radar detectors.

I note from your letter, a number of reference articles from studies overseas which support the use of drone radar in work zones as a speed reduction measure. As you have indicated, the findings suggest that vehicles equipped with radar detectors reduce speeds at work zones equipped with radar detectors to some degree, depending on the study examined.

Of particular interest is the 2008 update of the South Carolina study which shows that the mean speeds of radar detector users were significantly higher than those without the devices and that the drone radar served to reduce their speed to levels that were broadly in line with the remainder of the traffic stream. Similarly, larger reductions in mean speed by the entire traffic stream were identified through the use of changeable message signs and speed monitoring displays than by drone radar.

In lieu of these findings, I have asked the Office of Road Safety to arrange for an independent review of literature on the use of SWS and drone radar at work zones and other areas and to examine the relevance of the findings for Western Australia.

Furthermore, I would be pleased to review any local investigations that your organisation may have undertaken to support your financial investment in the Safety Warning System technology prior to its introduction and its subsequent effectiveness, particularly in relation to improving safety outcomes. This could include before and after speed measurements at work zones where the drone radar is operating.

Finally, with regard to your comment on GPS systems that include speed camera databases, I reiterate that any legislation introduced in Western Australia to ban the use of radar and laser detectors and jammers will only prohibit the use of devices that interfere with active speed camera operations. Speed camera databases in satellite navigation systems can only advise motorists of cameras at static locations, which may or not be operating and, if they are operating, are usually accompanied by signs.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Johnson', written over a vertical line that extends from the 'Yours sincerely' text.

ROB JOHNSON MLA
MINISTER FOR POLICE; EMERGENCY SERVICES; ROAD SAFETY

9 SEP 2010