

**DRAFT SECOND READING SPEECH**  
**THE HON MICHAEL FERGUSON MP**

**VEHICLE AND TRAFFIC AMENDMENT (DRIVER DISTRACTION AND SPEED ENFORCEMENT) BILL 2022**

*\*check Hansard for delivery\**

Mr Speaker, I move that the Bill now be read a second time.

The purpose of the *Vehicle and Traffic Amendment (Driver Distraction and Speed Enforcement) Bill 2022* is to support the Government's commitment to delivering improved road safety outcomes for all Tasmanians by enabling contemporary technology to be used to enforce existing traffic offences.

This Bill is the first in a package of road safety reforms to primary and subordinate legislation required to enable the enforcement offence by photographic detection devices, otherwise known as speed cameras, of the following:

- non-permitted mobile phone use,
- seatbelt non-compliance,
- use of an unregistered, suspended or written-off vehicle, and
- speeding offences by way of a vehicle's average speed.

Mr Speaker, tragically on average there are 32 fatalities, and 270 serious injuries on Tasmanian roads each year. Of these, approximately 29 percent can be related to speed, 24 per cent to distraction and 9 per cent to not wearing a seatbelt correctly or at all.

With a focus on reducing the level of road trauma in Tasmania, the Government will be implementing a new mobile speed camera program this year. This program will primarily focus on detecting existing speeding offences with the use of mobile speed cameras but will also seek to trial and implement new photographic detection devices to detect mobile phone, seatbelt, and speed offences.

Mr Speaker, this Bill brings Tasmania up to date with current technology available on the market. It is also consistent with legislation in other Australian jurisdictions, where improved road safety outcomes are being delivered through the implementation and use of new technology.

Jurisdictions that have already implemented mobile phone and seatbelt detection technology are reporting significant reductions in the detection rate of monitored offence types.

Regarding the use of average speed detection, these devices have a proven history of reducing fatal and serious crashes on monitored roads by up to 54 per cent. Once implemented, this technology is expected to provide a significant improvement to road safety in Tasmania.

In making these legislative amendments, the Government can enforce existing offences using photographic detection devices. Without these changes, the Government can only conduct ongoing trials without prosecuting offending motorists.

This Bill does not introduce any new traffic offences, but allows existing offences to be enforced using photographic detection devices, consistent with that which is already taking place in other states and territories.

Mr Speaker, before any new photographic detection devices are implemented in Tasmania an extensive educational campaign and trial period will be conducted.

Amendments to subordinate legislation required to implement any of these new technologies are being progressed and will commence before October this year.

In addition to this Bill Mr Speaker, I intend to bring forward additional legislative improvements to automated speed enforcement that will clarify that photographic detection devices will be able to operate while in motion.

Mr Speaker, this means a speed camera can be driving on the road and detecting offence motorist at the same time.

This type of enforcement currently operates only in two other countries in the world. The reason it is not included in this package is to ensure that the Government is ready to establish a program specifically designed for the Tasmanian environment.

The implementation of any photographic detection devices will not replace enforcement efforts by Tasmania Police but rather complement it and all other initiatives being delivered by the Government to make our roads safer.

Mr Speaker, this Bill will assist the Government in improving safe road use and supports priority initiatives under the *Towards Zero - Tasmanian Road Safety Strategy 2017-2026* and *Towards Zero Action Plan 2020-2024*, including:

- reducing the impact that the Fatal Five have on our roads;
- investigating enhancements to automated traffic enforcement;
- implementing technologies to enforce and deter high risk and illegal driving behaviours; and
- trialling advanced technology to reduce driver distraction.

The Government committed to improving road safety and this Bill is one initiative the Government is implementing to fulfill this commitment.

Mr Speaker, I commend this Bill to the House.