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TO: Mr Jonathan Brown, ACT Auditor-General's Office, 620 52438,
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Speed cameras

Thank you for giving Living Streets the opportunity to comment on the three key questions raised in your letter of 9 August.

Issues raised

1. Is there the right number of speed cameras, in the right places?
 - Data held by Roads ACT can be used to estimate the numbers of crashes, road casualties, deaths and the the number and proportions of speeding vehicles on several hundred Canberra streets, plus the rates of crashes per kilometre and, more importantly, per vehicle trip.

For pedestrian crashes, one of the crucial statistics is the rate of crashes per pedestrian-vehicle interaction. The number of pedestrian-vehicle interactions is proportional to the number of pedestrian movements, multiplied by the number of vehicle movements.

2. Are cameras effective in reducing speeding?
 - We do not have information on this issue.
3. Are cameras reliable?
 - We do not have any information on the reliability of speed cameras that do not indicate speed to passing drivers. We expect that this would be addressed in the relevant legislation.

However, problems can arise if poorly calibrated speed measuring devices provide misleading feedback to drivers. In one case, I passed two such devices during a weekend in Victoria. Although I was driving the same car, at close to exactly the same indicated speed, the speeds displayed by the two devices were about 5 km/h different.

Yours faithfully

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Chair, Living Streets Canberra
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