

# Cameras no deterrent to speeding, say drivers

- **Clay Lucas**
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ONE in four drivers on Victoria's roads say they break speed limits regularly — and only a visible police presence will slow many motorists down.

Victorian Government research also shows that 40% of drivers attempt to undermine speed cameras by warning other drivers when they spot one.

The data, in a report into perceptions of road safety in the state, shows that few drivers consider speeding fines or cameras effective deterrents.

Just 6% said cameras deterred them from speeding, and only 2% said traffic fines were an effective deterrent. But 37% said a police presence on the roads stopped them speeding.

Responses from 800 interviews showed alcohol or drug use among drivers was not considered acceptable. But speeding was still seen as permissible.

Opposition roads spokesman Terry Mulder said the survey proved the Government should provide more funding to police so they had a more visible presence on Victoria's roads.

"The minute anyone spots a police car ... they drive with a greater deal of caution," he said.

From 2002 to 2006, an average of 350 people were killed in accidents each year on Victoria's roads. The RACV's chief roads engineer, Peter Daly, said speed cameras worked, even if the perception among drivers was that they did not.

"Being pulled over by a cop for speeding and being told 'Look mate, you've done the wrong thing' has a different psychological impact than getting a fine two weeks later in the mail after you've been speeding," he said.

But cameras changed behaviour, Mr Daly said. "You influence behaviour through speed cameras, even if you don't change attitudes," he said.