



MINISTER FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES; JUSTICE; COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thank you for your email regarding the banning of radar detectors in Western Australia.

You may be aware that the previous Minister for Community Safety, the Hon Michelle Roberts MLA, announced the Government's intention to ban the use of radar detectors and other speed evasion devices, such as laser jammers, in this state. The Road Safety Council supports this ban and prohibiting the use of such devices would bring WA in line with the rest of Australia in this regard.

Inappropriate speed contributes to around one-third of fatal crashes in WA and reducing speeding is a key element of *Arriving Safely*, the Western Australian road safety strategy for 2003-2007. The enforcement of speed limits, combined with community education is essential in reducing speeding and death and serious injury on our roads.

Research suggests that the use of radar detectors increases the probability of driver involvement in crashes. For example a study in Canada found that radar detector owners had significantly more crash claims and speeding convictions than members of the general population. Also, in terms of radar detectors being used as a speed-monitoring device, a study conducted in the United States of America concluded that radar detectors were primarily being used to avoid police detection rather than warning drivers about their excess speed.

The Government will give consideration to amending the *Road Traffic Act 1974* to introduce regulations to ban the fitment, use and possibly sale of radar detectors in WA. The proposed ban and any necessary legislative amendments, however will require Cabinet and Parliamentary approval.

Thank you for taking the time to write to me regarding this issue.

Yours sincerely

JOHN D'ORAZIO MLA
MINISTER FOR POLICE & EMERGENCY SERVICES;
JUSTICE; COMMUNITY SAFETY