

Submission on laws intended to protect us from ourselves

Speed limits and speed camera enforcement

I was recently in Europe. The relationship between the Gov and community is different there. It amounts to "you are responsible citizens so you to behave as you wish, hoping it will be responsibly.

This shows up in all sorts of ways. A playground beside the Danube with no fences just a lifesaver ring with a rope .

The biggest example is on the roads. In Germany there are sign on the autobahn reminding you to be courteous to the other drivers, but no speed limits. Outside of the towns and villages is open road , denoted by not 60 anymore signs. The roads are no different to ours except we have advisory signs to tell you how fast you can go round a corner(which is good advice), and enforceable signs mandated at 100 or 110kph(which are to save us from making a decision, and are bad). So in Germany you are responsible to decide an appropriate speed to drive taking into account, the road, the car, the weather, the traffic, in Australia the Gov made it for you and will fine you, and take away your licence if you don't obey.

If our system resulted in a lower road toll, we could be sacrificing our agency (and the other benefits of quicker travel) for the combined good. The road toll in Germany is lower than ours even though they drive on snow and ice part of the year. We have a larger country so there would be more benefits to driving faster, if the conditions allowed.

QLD road deaths quick set of figures. Road toll 1973 630, Road toll 1998 (blanket speed limits, and speed cameras introduced in 1997) 1998 273. So road toll steadily reducing for 25 years. Road toll 2011 269, and since then much the same. Effectively no reduction in 20 years since the Gov took over the decision making for us and enforced it. This is not surprising because deaths solely with speed (not drunk as well) are about 5% of the total, but are the area we are told is the problem.

All experts support Nanny state situation, despite the figures.

I believe our road toll would fall if speed limits were made advisory, so we could decide for ourselves, taking into account the conditions.