



# QUEENSLAND COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES

Protecting Queenslanders' individual rights and liberties since 1967

*Watching Them While They're Watching You*

The Commissioner of Police  
GPO Box 1440  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Commissioner

I write to you on behalf of the Council in relation to a report that we have received, that police are using ANPR to identify vehicles that have driven more than 50 km from the address at which the vehicle is registered, so that they can be charged with a breach of the Home Confinement Direction.

Would you please advise whether this is correct, as it raises significant concerns?

Firstly, there is the obvious practical problem. There is no reason to think that the driver of a vehicle necessarily lives at the address of the person in whose name the vehicle is registered. It could for example be being driven by a child of that person who is no longer living at home.

But more importantly, when the COVID19 crisis is already being used to justify extended surveillance, this is an egregious piece of mass surveillance.

In previous correspondence with your predecessor, I made it clear that the Council does not object to ANPR in all its forms. We have no issue with an ANPR system which involves the use of a camera containing a blacklist of stolen or unregistered vehicles. If a stolen or unregistered vehicle is identified this information is displayed to the police officer and the police officer, then calls in assistance from other officers who conduct the usual enquiries. Under this system the only data that is stored and released from the camera is the number plate of vehicles which are stolen or unregistered. The details of innocent vehicles are not recorded. The data is not downloaded into a database

It is clear to us from correspondence with the Deputy Commission (Specialist Operations) in 2013 that is not the system which is in place in Queensland. It's use as a basis for charging people with breaching the Home Confinement Direction is just the sort of mass surveillance which we opposed back then and continue to oppose.

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We look forward hearing from you.

Yours Faithfully



Michael Cope

President

For and on behalf of the  
Queensland Council for Civil Liberties

7 May 2020