

(Sir) Rom Mailliw gets serious



The car is a Fiat 850 Sport Coupe, rear-engined (as was the trend in Europe at the time) with the fuel tank sandwiched between the engine and the rear seat.

The annual Auto Italia show is held in Canberra each year so many drive their classics from Sydney for the day. On the return trip, another Fiat owner noticed the award-winning 850 Sport parked on the side of the highway with smoke coming from the engine bay. He pulled over and ran back with a 2kg fire extinguisher; after emptying the entire contents onto the 850's engine, it appeared as though the fire was out - no flames, no smoke, no worries.

But about ten seconds later he heard a low 'whump' as petrol re-ignited. With no more extinguishers on hand, all they could do was stand back and watch the fire consume the back of the car. The rear window exploded and the left rear tyre burst before the fire spread to the rest of the car. Needless to say the Fiat was totally destroyed right before their eyes.

The cause? A small brass fitting connecting the fuel line to the carburettor broke, spilling petrol into the hot (and on fire) engine bay. The electric fuel pump was still operating as the driver escaped the burning car in a hurry. It was a very sad and public end to what had just previously been a mint example of a classic car.

The moral of the story?

- A) Carry a fire extinguisher.
- B) Fit a kill-switch for an electric petrol pump.
- C) Sometimes you just run out of luck.
- D) Who would own an Italian car?
- E) All of the above.

Cheers,
(Sir) Rom

Mobile phone detection cameras to be rolled out across NSW roads by December

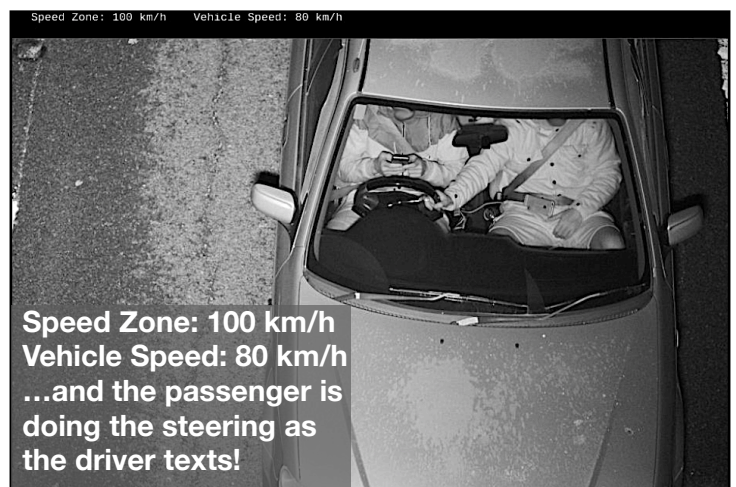
- By state political reporter Ashleigh Raper

Sun 22 Sep 2019, ABC News

Key points:

- Unlike speed cameras, there will be no warning signs for mobile phone detection cameras
- The State Government said 100,000 of the 85 million drivers checked during a trial were found to be using their phones illegally
- The rollout of the new cameras will be completed by December

The mobile phone detection cameras were trialled at two permanent spots for six months. The Government said 85 million cars were checked during the trial period 100,000 drivers were found to be using



their phones illegally. Currently, the penalty for illegally operating a mobile phone while driving is **\$344 and five demerit points**. The high-definition cameras use artificial intelligence to spot drivers, regardless of the weather or time of day.

Cheers, (Sir) Rom :)