



2014/2015 SUMMARY

This year saw what was probably the most productive for general Queensland motorcycling rules and input for quite some time with the result a major benefit to the road user group. The MRAQ is proud of the results that have been achieved and the way that submissions have been both accepted and acted upon.

It is exceptionally pleasing to have ended the period in a position of great acceptance from the law making bodies both political and departmental.

ROAD RULE CHANGES

The MRAQ has for some time been lobbying Government to revise a number of problematic road rules applicable to motorcyclists and in 2014 the Government of the day saw fit to act upon the three main contentious issues.

Lane filtering, motorcycle control and helmet standards were accepted by the then minister as items that needed revision and correspondingly a discussion paper with associated online survey was released with clear intention of making sensible changes to all three areas.

It was obvious that the changes were intended to be implemented by the way in which the government went about supporting the proposals with factual evidence on all points. It could be said that there may have been an ulterior motive of offering some appeasement to general motorcyclist for the adverse results of the VLAD laws that had been introduced 12 months previously however as with all things political we will always take an advantage not matter how it comes about.

The results from the survey clearly supported the changes proposed and this resulted in the revisions being made and taking effect on the 1st February 2015 as follows.

Lane filtering is now legal under controlled conditions at speeds up to 30km/hr and includes the ability to filter in the breakdown lane on

roads with posted speed limits of 90km/hr and greater when the general traffic is moving at speed below 30km/hr.

Motorcycle control has been revised to remove the prohibitive inclusion of specific points of contact and now requires just proper control of the vehicle.

Helmet standards have been revised to now include both versions of the Australian standards and the European standard as acceptable helmets for use in Queensland. Although this is of benefit to Queensland riders there are still a whole lot of items that need to be finalised Australia wide on this issue.

For greater information on these changes refer to

<http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Safety/Queensland-road-rules/Motorcycle-road-rules.aspx>

SAFETY INITIATIVES AND INCLUSION

The calendar year 2015 has not been a good one so far for motorcycle road trauma in Queensland. 2014 saw the lowest ever recorded motorcycle road deaths so it has been extremely disappointing to have 2015 a completely reversal of this result.

The Easter period on Queensland was one that caused all great concern due to the abnormally high death rate and hence the Ministers for Police and for Main Roads called a summit of stakeholders to discuss the problem and to make suggestions about the issue.

The summit resulted in over 200 suggestions with varying relevance and hence a select group was formed from the summit to act as a steering committee to review the suggestions and make recommendations on their relevance and possible inclusion in the 2015/2017 QLD Road Safety Plan. The MRAQ was asked to be part of this committee and gratefully accepted. Other members include QTMR, RACQ, CARSQ, QLD Police, Bicycling QLD, and Heavy Transport QLD.

It was extremely pleasing to have been included in this committee as to our knowledge the MRAQ has never previously been included in such high level engagement. Additionally it was of great pleasure to receive the acceptance that we did for the input and suggestions that we offered, almost all of which were acted upon. The 2015/2017 Qld Road Safety Plan is due for release in September.

MOTORCYCLE LICENSING

The QTMR has commenced action on one of the recommendations of the 2012 parliamentary licensing review. This action is in response to the recommendations for the inclusion of a pre learner section to the licensing procedure.

The MRAQ was and still is in favour of this inclusion however some additional alterations to the overall procedure have also been suggested which we do not agree with.

The MRAQ has been actively consulted from the very start of all the possible revisions and has expressed its position forcefully. The second round of consultation with QRide providers has been implemented and is currently being correlated with the view to opening the process up to public consultation in the next month or so.

We will continue to be consulted by QTMR as the process proceeds and will be standing firm on our original position of pre learner inclusion being advisable but additional alteration which adversely alters the course content and contact being unacceptable.

VLAD LAWS

With a change of Government in January has come an opportunity for the review of the suite of laws that form what is commonly referred to as the VLAD laws.

The Government has put in place a review that is currently taking submissions on the laws with particular reference to their compliance with parliamentary legislative guidelines and with common law as well as their impact on those affected.

The MRAQ is preparing a submissions based on the impact that resulted in the early stages of the implementation plus the laws compliance with guidelines and the just rule of law. For anyone interested in making a submission refer to

<http://www.justice.qld.gov.au/taskforce-into-organised-crime/submissions>

GENERAL

The MRAQ is proud of the achievements for the year and general encouraging acceptance of its input on various issues throughout the year by Government and is continuing, all be with limited resources to represent the concerns and rights of all Queensland motorcyclists