



MOTORCYCLE RIDERS ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND

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15 June 2012

The Honourable Scott Emerson M.P
Minister for Transport and Main Roads
Parliament House
George St.
Brisbane QLD 4000

Dear Minister

Re: Introduction of the MRAQ and issues of concern

This correspondence is forward by the management committee on behalf of the Motorcycle Riders Association Queensland as way of introduction to the Association and to notify you of an issue of concern to us.

The Motorcycle Riders Association Queensland Inc. is the official voice of Queensland motorcyclists and has been working for this community for over 20 years.

With a doubling of registrations in the last ten years to over 165000 two wheel vehicles in Queensland it is important that the riding population has a voice on issues affecting them.

The MRAQ has a primary role to convey the road safety concerns and suggestions of riders to relevant government bodies and work with them to achieve the goal of improving rider safety and rights.

The Association's objectives are to:

- Enhance road safety for motorcyclists
- Facilitate the development of more effective road safety policies
- Promote motorcycling to the wider community
- Work for fair and sensible legislation for motorcyclists

The MRAQ welcomes any well thought out road safety initiatives however we believe that the way that motorcycle safety has been treated previously does not amount to a commendable result. Both suggestions and funding for real safety initiatives in this sector has historically been lacking despite acknowledgement that motorcyclists are vulnerable road users.

Additionally, previously there has been what amounts to discrimination against riders with the public continually being told that riders are over-represented in crash statistics without acknowledgement of the increased number of registrations and kilometres travelled. Unfortunately some people in positions of authority have shown extreme negativity towards motorcycling. Some would seek to use their influence to reduce the number of riders as an over simplistic way of achieving increased safety.

With all the above as background we wish to raise an issue of immediate concern to us emanating out of the current discussions and working groups on the National Road Safety Strategy.

Queensland has a special group under the control of the QTMR focusing on motorcycle safety called the Queensland Motorcycle Safety Advisory Group (QMSAG) which has been charged with reporting on suggestion to the National Strategy. The MRAQ has had input into the QMSAG which was to meet on a three monthly basis and report before November 2012 however no meeting of the group has been held since November 2011 and we are unaware of any future planned meetings.

At the time of the last meeting two items were put on the table for future discussion which are of particular concern to us. These are 1) the introduction of a motorcycle levy and 2) the implementation of 0%BAC for all motorcyclists.

We cannot accept that there is reasonable justification for either of these suggestions and are concerned that they will become included in suggestions from the QMSAG without any further discussion and that any suggestions from the QMSAG will not be fairly representative of all the participants.

We would like to request a meeting with you to discuss the concerns that we have with this specific issue but also to further discuss motorcycle safety and road use in general.

We await your response in anticipation of a positive outcome.

Yours sincerely

Chris Mearns
President
Motorcycle Riders Association Queensland Inc.

*The Motorcycle Rider's Association of Queensland is the representative body for
motorcycle & scooter riders in Queensland*

MRAQ
UNITING RIDERS