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All the assurances don't mean anything

The Queensland Government has embarked on a very costly campaign to convince the general public that the implementation of the new VLAD laws will not affect the average motorcyclist.

This assurance is being found to be worthless and just a costly exercise in spin and hyperbole.

The MRAQ is being presented with first hand reports and photographic evidence that the guarantees are unable to be maintained in the field.

Average riders are being stopped and harassed when going about their lawful business and no amount of PR is able to prevent it.

A rider from north Queensland has written,

"On Thursday 24th of October police set up a road block about 5 doors down from the Harley Davidson dealership in Townsville. They only pulled over men riding Harley Davidsons and some Japanese cruisers that looked like Harleys. They were searched made to turn out their pockets on the road side and there license details recorded. They hadn't been riding in groups only as individuals. None were wearing outlaw club clothing all were just people going about their lawful business. On the 25th of October a friend of mine not an outlaw club member was pulled over by Tully police, searched and told "he had better take his Harley home and sell it and buy a car as while he owned it they (the police) would continue to pull him over until he did". On the 24th of October I was pulled over by police while riding my Harley to Woolworths. The Officer told me he believed I was a member of an outlaw motorcycle club and therefore had the right to detain me without reason and search me. I him informed that I was not an outlaw bkie and had never been one. He said I don't care what you say turn out your pockets or I will arrest you. He then searched me and eventually let me go. For your Information I am a fire fighter with the Queensland Fire and Rescue service not a member of an outlaw club"

Additional support for this attitude being displayed from members of the Queensland police force comes from another rider who writes,

"Hi, Ned here, every time I have been out on my bike of late I have been pulled over and harassed... I don't and never have had anything to do with OMG, yet my right to go and enjoy the very thing that gets me through the week is being taken away from me, and I'm as mad as hell!"

Another from Deception Bay has supplied this information,

"Got pulled over Thurs morn at Deception bay. My St 1300 didn't interest the 2 highway patrol cops as much as my mates fat bob. Licence check, rego, breath test. We gave them our opinions and they declined to converse"

These statements are additionally supported by the photographic evidence attached.

Photo 1 is of a group that were license checked and interrogated on Sunday 20th.

Photo 2 is of a group that were intercepted and interrogated for outlaw affiliation at Warwick on Friday 25th.

Both of these groups had no outlaw club members present.

These events are the manifestation of laws that are clearly excessive and they will continue to occur with the powers bestowed under them being abused and misused against non-target citizens.

There can be no justification for the implementation of laws that the legislators quite clearly know are open to excess and that will and are impacting of those going about their legitimate business.

The MRAQ is convinced that these instances are only a very small representation of what is happening and urgently calls upon the Queensland government and police to desist from taking these actions

Signed

Chris Mearns
President
Motorcycle Riders Association of Queensland

