

MRAQ Submission on National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020

The draft National Road Strategy was released in 1 December 2010 for comment and submission by 11 February 2011. Some cynics might say that putting the paper out for comment over the Christmas/New Year period is a deliberate strategy to reduce considered public comment. Str8 Thru interviewed the MRAQ committee member who led preparation of the response.

David, what is the draft National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020?

It is a draft strategy issued by the Federal Government that outlines a number of key initiatives to improve road safety. State governments would then look to implement the strategy.

What would you say the key issues are?

Key issues are the things that have been left out like the impending Carbon Tax, and the benefits of improvements to CTP insurance that were supported by the Henry Tax Review. The poor attitude towards bikes, trikes and scooters is retained. The benefits of these machines and their growing popularity is obscured by this attitude.

What did MRAQ do?

Well, we assembled a team of volunteers to work on preparing a response. We asked our members to either join the team or provide comments. We received some great contributions. In addition to our members we also sought the opinions from various other clubs such as the Ducati Association.

Why is it important?

This strategy will be implemented over the next ten years. During this time there will be major changes in our society and MRAQ needs to influence legislation on behalf of our members.

Who helped?

There is no way I could have done this without help. John Meara, Russel Wattie, Pinkie and Alan Birch were all on the sub-committee and I would like to thank them for their help and hard work as well as the valued input from many MRAQ members.

Notice of General Meeting

A General Meeting will be held at the Lord Stanley Hotel, Stanley St, East Brisbane commencing 9 February 2011 at 7.30pm.

Agenda

- Reports
- Business arising last meeting
- General business:
 - Safety Strategy submission, David White.
 - Proposal to change constitution

Proposed resolution: That the MRAQ Rules of Association be amended in accordance with the draft presented to the meeting.

- Close

Affiliate Clubs

Ulysses
Qld Trikes
Wed Wheelie Warriors
S'thm Cross Assoc
Leisure Touring
HOG

Contacts

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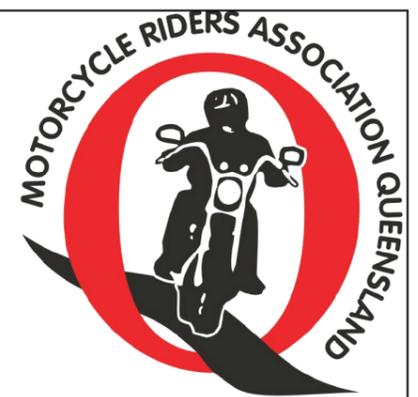
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MRAQ 2011 Calendar

TBA May Blanket Run
TBA Jul Rocky Run to meet up with MRATD
10th Aug AGM
TBA Dec Toy Run



STR8 THRU

A newsletter of Motorcycle Riders Association Queensland Inc.

UNITING RIDERS

February 2011

So what's happening?

It's been a dramatic start to the New Year in more ways than one. The December AGM saw the election of a new committee: a good mix of some old faces and some new ones.

The first challenge for the new committee was to prepare a MRAQ response to the draft National Road Safety Strategy. A great team was assembled and put to work. David has more to say on this overleaf.

MRAQ has some exciting challenges ahead and we want to see a vibrant growing association



representing the interests of the riding community.

One of the key things is improving communication to all our members whether its

by a newsletter delivered by email, RSS feed or website, we aim to let you know what's happening.

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The President Speaks...

I extend a warm welcome to all members, both current and new and look forward to my term as President of the MRAQ. At the AGM whereby I accepted the role as President, I made known of my intention to take this organization back to its grass roots responsibility of providing a voice for all riders.

Motorcycle Riders Association Queensland (MRAQ) is just that, an organization which provides a voice for riders, regardless if you are a commuter on a scooter or a 1%er. It also encompasses all makes and styles and that my friends, includes bikes, trikes and scooters.

During recent years, we have seen a number of changes and new Legislation introduced which impose restrictions on riders and also have an impact on innocent parties.

This organization was formed many years ago to fight for the benefit of all riders against such legislation and it is my goal to again have the MRAQ raise its collective voice for the benefit of riders in Queensland.

To ensure our voice is heard, it will be important for all members to contribute and support our stated ideals. It is also important that we embrace those that are not yet members and encourage them to join the MRAQ. New members will provide us with further knowledge, skills and expertise and these are the tools which will continue to make the organization successful.

Ok, off the soapbox now and take a deep breath. With the pleasant change in the weather, now is the time to be out riding so fuel up and get out there. Take care and keep the rubber side down.

Cheers Bill

Know your committee!

I could tell you all about what we ride and how long we've been riding etc, but I'm not going to: why not have a chat over a cold beer after a good ride! What I am going to tell you is the skills and experience your committee brings to MRAQ.

Bill Payne: President

Bill is a qualified accountant who runs his own successful business and brings a clear vision, energy and passion combined with the senior management experience to develop MRAQ combined with an extensive network within the riding community.

Garth Hamilton: Vice President

Garth is a qualified accountant and Chartered Secretary who runs his own management and business advisory consultancy. He has over 15 years of experience in not for profit committees and has lobbied successfully for legislative changes.

Roy Packer: Treasurer

Roy will be featured in the next issue of Str8 Thru

Jan Birch (aka Pinkie): Secretary

Pinkie is well known in the riding community and to our members having previously served as MRAQ secretary. Pinkie is dedicated to making sure the committee is serv-

David White: Committee Member

David has a strong commitment to motorcycle safety, particularly for those most vulnerable like L and P plate riders. David also brings persistence. He has been advocating for a user-pays system for motor registration and CTP insurance for around 25 years.

Linda Quinn: Membership Registrar

Linda is a solicitor specialising in litigation. Linda has served on various not for profit committees previously and believes in the important role MRAQ can play in the broader riding community.

MRAQ so far...Dec 10/Jan 11

If the committee thought Dec/Jan would be a gradual easing into the role and getting to know each other: they were wrong!

There have been a number of immediate challenges:

- **National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2010 Submission:** With comments and submissions due in February 2011 we needed to act immediately. A sub-committee was established headed up by David White. This team consulted widely and met the deadline.
- **Office of Fair Trading (OFT):** The OFT is a government body that, amongst other things, regulates incorporated associations. After enquiries it turns out that MRAQ has not submitted its annual returns and fees for the past ten years. After some negotiations our non-compliance issues with OFT have been resolved by Pinkie, Garth and Linda.
- **Constitution Review:** The constitution has been reviewed and a revised constitution (technically called Rules of Association) has been prepared. This will be released for member to look at before voting on whether to accept the amendments or not in February.
- **Committee & Monthly Meetings:** After looking at past practice and the constitution a few changes are being made to our monthly meetings. Committee meetings will be held at 7.00-7.30pm where MRAQ admin will be dealt with followed by a monthly members meeting. Formal General Meetings will occur as required and the next AGM is in August 2011.

Where are we going? (the GPS for 2011+)

At the AGM Bill briefly outlined a vision for a vital active MRAQ that vigorously represents the interests of the riding community whilst fostering relationships between everyone on two wheels.

So, in a practical sense, what does this mean?

MRAQ using its voice:

MRAQ has seats on a number of consultative committees and the potential to be an effective lobbyist. Rather than committee members automatically filling these roles we will invite the best person for the job from our talented members (btw talented member means you!!). If you get a tap on the shoulder you know why! We want to be heard and want to be sought out for our advice.

Membership:

The harsh reality is that membership has declined over the years. How many thousands of riders are out there and yet we have 110 members. A number of activities will be taken to get the word out and the benefits of being a member. Anyone with two wheels or three should be a member.

Member services:

We will look at improving this not only through lobbying and member discounts but also through social events/rides, and guest presenters at monthly meetings. Watch this space and check out the website often.

Communications:

Not everyone can make it to the Lord Stanley monthly and we want to let everyone know what's happening as well as hearing what you have to say. We have 2 ears and 1 mouth so we should listen twice as much as we speak (that's gonna be hard for me! Ed.) and MRAQ is our association so tell us what you want. Unfortunately there is no free beer!

Financial and Government Compliance:

A necessary part of life as a not for profit and we have to improve.



Vietnam Vets Toy Run

- VVMC Toy Run for flood victims will be held 20 February 2011
- Open to ALL Motorcyclists and Groups
- Contact Rex at Moreton Regiment VVMC: 0432 269 667
- Mustering at 10am, Leaving 11am from Level 3 Carpark end of the Redbank Shopping Centre
- Run will finish at Goodna RSL with a performance by Normie Rowe and others

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