

October 8th 2013

Press release from the Motorcycle Riders Association of Queensland.

The Motorcycle Riders Association of Queensland views with grave concern the media reports and government representative responses of today that the Queensland government is proposing legislation in response to recent events on the Gold Coast that will impact on the general riding public.

Admissions from the Attorney General that none target riders will most probably be adversely affected by the proposals and that they will just have to put up with it or that if they are doing nothing wrong they have nothing to fear are alarming.

Riders going about their lawful business should not be subject to any more scrutiny than anyone else while doing the same and any suggest otherwise is simple not acting in the spirit of the law.

The proposals to further add to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act is completely without reasonable foundation and by the Attorneys own admission could affect any rider without just cause.

We have seen that all of those that were involved with the recent events at Broadbeach have or will be brought before the current justice system so why is it necessary to add powers that could and, from reports that are now starting to surface, are impacting others in unacceptable ways.

The adage that a little power corrupts a little and ultimate power corrupts ultimately has proved to hold true time and time again throughout all history but even more so when considered in relation to Queensland Police Powers history. The events that lead to the Fitzgerald Inquiry should not be forgotten when considering what is currently being proposed and even more so when the current government is openly wanting to avoid procedures that were put in place following it.

The grab to maintain the moral high ground on law and order issues with the support of a huge propaganda machine is most likely to bring about some additional very adverse results.

We are already seeing responses from members of the general public that all motorcyclists are a problem and if this attitude is allowed to grow any further the safety of average riders may well be put in jeopardy. It is of particular concern that unreasonable actions may be taken towards riders on the basis that someone believed that they were threatened by the presence of a group of riders if this continual rhetoric is allowed to persist and the proposed unnecessary amendments are put in place.

Some more clarity in thinking and action very urgently needs to be put in place on these issues before the civil liabilities of riders is unjustly affected and their safety is put in jeopardy.

Written by
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For and on behalf of The Motorcycle Riders Association Of Queensland