



MOTORCYCLE RIDERS ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND

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Subject - events around targeting motorcycle riders for extraordinary and unwarranted police attention.

In the last week there has been considerable discussion about information from the Queensland Government that it is proposing to introduce laws that will target more than three motorcyclists riding together.

The week started with a media story which stated that all riders would be affected by the proposals. This initial report was rejected at the time by the Queensland Attorney General, however by Friday this denial had been substantially qualified in that he could not guarantee that unwarranted attention would not happen by their introduction and those affected would just have to put up with it.

A number of particularly worrying issues are raised by this proposal and the manner in which the government has stated that it is going to go about introducing it.

Firstly it must be clearly stated that riding a motorcycle is not illegal so any action that makes it subject to attention that is not applied to every other road user is utterly offensive and not in the spirit of a fair and impartial legal system.

Secondly it is of great concern that the current government is proposing to introduce this unwarranted legislation with complete disregard to the procedures put in place after the recommendations of the Fitzgerald Inquiry that requires that any new legislation be reviewed by a parliamentary committee before going to final reading and introduction.

This procedure was put in place to prevent the potential for the excesses of a government that is able to dominate the single house parliament that Queensland has. It is apparent that this current government has every intention to ignore this vital check and balance. There can be no justification for this stance.

At a hastily organised meeting of concerned motorcyclists on Saturday just past a statement was made that highlights the situation if this course of action is allowed to proceed.

The statement was. "If this is allowed to happen, this government in 18 months will have taken us back 18years".

The MRAQ cannot find any justification for the introduction of any legislation that can have an unwarranted interference with any person that is going about their lawful business or that targets a particular group for their manner of transport.

The Attorney General has used the very tiered, "if you are doing nothing wrong you have nothing to worry about" line that is always produced when this type of unjustified proposition is made.

The MRAQ believes that a far more reasonable statement on this issue would be "if you are going about your lawful business then you should have no worry of interference".

The MRAQ urges the Queensland Government to urgently reconsider the proposal to introducing any legislation or alteration to police powers that enables the targeting of motorcyclists for just using their legal means of transport.

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President
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