

# A PUBLIC STATEMENT

*“A member recently asked why are we associating with bikies and standing up for them against the government (to paraphrase the question). This is the response from our President, Phil McClelland on behalf of the MRASA”*

The MRA is the political voice for motorcycling. This is a core policy. It defines who we are and why we exist. We will defend, fight for and promote motorcyclists rights.

The MRA SA has not, and will not, align itself with any individual, group or party. We may endorse their views and support them as best we can, but that is all.

We have been compared to the RAA fighting for car drivers and a Union fighting for workers.

We may have to fight for the rights of people we would not have in our home. We don't choose who rides a motorbike. We can't just fight for Honda Riders or Ulysses Riders or just our members. As for the bikies; we believe they still have rights. We will fight for ALL Motorcycle Riders.

We have pumped out media releases and public statements that have drawn little interest in the wider media and therefore the public at large. When we have the bikies in a meeting or on a ride the media report it, and we get our message across. We need the media coverage to help counter this very media savvy government.

The Serious and Organised Crime Act attacks the right of our members and the larger Motorcycling community to associate with fellow riders.

The Serious and Organised Crime Act has made criminals of most South Australians. They have broken the law by having 6 contacts with any person or persons with a conviction in a 12 month period. Contact can be email, sms, letter, phone call or in person. I met up with a friend of my wife on Thursday night who has lost a traffic court case about 16 years ago. I now have exceeded my 6 contacts over a 12 month period and that makes this meeting a criminal act. This is wrong. Police are simply choosing not to lay charges at this time. We will be guilty but some Police Officer can choose who to send to Jail for 5 years.

Truth is, 99% of the people who are in breach of this Act will never be charged. They don't know or care about any new laws. They do what they feel is right and trust in getting a fair hearing if they are charged. They don't know or care that if the Police decide it is "Criminal Intelligence" their lawyer will not see the evidence and they will not get a fair trial.

We do know and we do care.

We will always fight for ALL Motorcyclists.  
How could we not? We are the MRA.

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