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QUEENSLAND HISTORIC MOTORING COUNCIL

(Inc)

(affiliated with Australian Historic Motoring Federation)

QHMC BULLETIN 4 of 2011

Interim situation report to clubs

To: QHMC Club Delegates and Affiliated Clubs

Subject: Seat Belt Laws in Qld

Seat Belt Laws in Queensland for our Club Vehicles

BACKGROUND:

Most members of QHMC-affiliated clubs will be aware that when the Queensland Government introduced its updated road rules legislation in 2009/10, it retrograded the national rule in regard to seat belts in our historic vehicles, which resulted in our inability to carry our children and grandchildren in our historic cars whilst driving in Queensland. The centre of this issue is that Queensland is the only State not providing a seat belt exemption in our historic vehicles for children aged 7 to under 16 years of age.

ACTION TO DATE:

Following QHMC's initial written submission to DTMR in October 2010, the department invited us to discuss the issue with senior policy management, which we did in February 2011 at the department's offices in Brisbane. We were informed by DTMR that it is unlikely for ministerial approval to be gained for an exemption the same as that provided by Australian Road Rules (ARR) and by the road rules in other States and Territories. Despite this, we came away from that meeting hopeful of some lesser resolution being attained eventually.

At the March 2011 QHMC general meeting, your club delegates engaged in spirited discussion on the issue which was followed up on 9th April 2011 by a QHMC Bulletin to all affiliated clubs to gauge the feeling and opinion at club level. QHMC delegates reviewed your responses in a

boisterous discussion at the May 2011 QHMC general meeting. In acknowledgement of the department's concerns over road safety issues generally, delegates arrived at consensus for QHMC to take a negotiated step back from our original submission and adopt the policy that a reasonable point in time at which to apply an exemption to the 7 to 16 age group from the wearing of seat belts in our vehicles would be for the pre-1960 fleet not fitted with seat belt anchorages from new. This was in complete accord with club responses to the bulletin.

A new QHMC submission was delivered to DTMR in July 2011 advocating for a pre-1960 vehicle exemption in line with the general consensus throughout our clubs. This was followed up in September 2011 with a letter to the new Minister for Transport apprising her of our dealings with her department and requesting her assistance. We met with the department's senior policy executives once again on 10th October 2011 where further progress was made.

CURRENT SITUATION:

Although we are making progress, dealings with any arm of government can often be long, drawn-out affairs and DTMR is no exception. As we are advocating for something that uninformed people in the wider community may not fully understand. We have a great deal of work to do in convincing government that our position has been arrived at for good reasons and is based on community values and expectations.

The positive aspects which came out of our latest meeting with DTMR require further development and consultation in order to realise their full potential. We are aware that some of our clubs have directly approached both the previous and the current Queensland Ministers for Transport on this issue and that one club member in particular continues his political advocacy.

Our clubs have been patient during this process and we ask that you bear with us while we continue our dealings with the department in anticipation of a reasonable outcome being negotiated and achieved.

FUTURE ACTION:

We will be returning for further discussions after DTMR has consulted other stakeholders in the process. We have been actively engaged on this seat belt issue for 12 months now and it will be a while longer yet. As progress is being made, this gives us hope for a resolution, however we cannot be more specific than that whilst consultation is ongoing.

Should your club have any further questions, please email me, with a cc copy of your email to David James vicepresident@qhmc.org.au who is the QHMC project officer managing this issue.

Regards to all,

Graham Allum

President QHMC

27th October 2011

Email: president@qhmc.org.au

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