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QUEENSLAND HISTORIC MOTORING COUNCIL

(Inc)

(affiliated with Australian Historic Motoring Federation)

QHMC BULLETIN 2 of 2011

Request for feedback from clubs

To: QHMC Club Delegates and Affiliated Clubs

Subject: Seat Belt Laws in Qld

Seat Belt Laws in Qld for our Club Vehicles

With the Qld Govt introducing new Queensland Road Rules (QRR) in 2010, the QRR initially mirrored the Australian Road Rules (ARR) in providing the same exemption to vehicles not required to be fitted with seat belts when new. Some months later, the Qld Govt decided not to follow the lead of the National Transport Commission and the Australian Transport Council in adopting the national model road rules in relation to vehicles in this category. Seat belts and child restraints are covered in Section 266 (rules) and 267 (exemptions). The DTMR Queensland website link is: <http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/CURRENT/T/TrantOpRURR09.pdf>
The other States decided to stay with the ARR for their individual State and Territory road rules, but not Qld. Some, such as South Australia, decided to provide even more far reaching exemptions for club cars.

The crux of this issue is that Qld is the odd State out by failing to provide a seat belt exemption in our historic vehicles for children aged **7 to under 16** years of age. Qld Govt has made it illegal to carry them in any car not fitted with seatbelts, including club cars, and including SIV registered vehicles (except for trucks buses & taxis). The QHMC position is that we should have parity with the ARR in the same way as already enacted in other States. QHMC has already made a submission to DTMR and has been involved

in at least one conference with senior DTMR policy makers to date. QHMC is currently conducting its own review in order to provide DTMR with a follow-up submission in answer to its initial interim response to our submission. We need the input of your club in order to ensure that the second submission is representative of the movement in Qld.

At the March 2011 QHMC Club Delegates General Meeting, spirited discussion occurred regarding that initial interim response from DTMR. We are told that DTMR research has shown that if an exemption was in existence in Qld, capping the exemption at pre-1940 vehicles would reduce the 'risk' significantly; DTMR is committed to 'alleviating risk'. It is unlikely that DTMR will recommend ministerial approval for an exemption the same as ARR and other States. QHMC club delegates have agreed to take a negotiated step back from our original submission and have come to a general consensus that a reasonable point in time to apply an exemption to the 7 to 16 age group would be for all pre-1960 vehicles not fitted with seat belt anchorages from new.

On behalf of your club members, club secretaries are asked to urgently provide comment to QHMC regarding this important matter and include reasons for the club's position on the matter, in order to provide justification. Feedback is essential by 24th May 2011 so that the QHMC can progress this issue in a timely manner.

David James

President QHMC

9th April 2011

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