

# Cr Angela Owen-Taylor

Councillor for Parkinson Ward



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CMC Review of Motorbike Noise Laws  
Attention : Nadine Seifert  
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## Issues with Noisy Trail Bikes in Parkinson Ward

The Brisbane City Council Ward of Parkinson comprises all or part of the following suburbs;

- Algester
- Parkinson
- Pallara
- Doolandella
- Forest lake
- Heathwood
- Larapinta
- Willawong

As this ward contains large tracts of undeveloped rural acreage and environmental corridors it has become an attractive area for the congregation of many trail bike riders.

### NOISE IMPACTS

Many residents in Parkinson Ward are continually bearing the brunt of unwanted noise resulting from noisy off road trail bike riders riding on land which they are not permitted to be on.

A number of police operations have been undertaken to specifically target trail bikers who have been causing intolerable strain on residents throughout the Ward but most specifically in Heathwood, who have been subjected to constant trail bike noise for entire days over the weekend in particular. I have had residents advise me that they have sold their homes and moved from the area with the sole reason being the ongoing trail bike noise. It is unacceptable that residents are being impacted so much that they are leaving their homes.



Trail bikers are accessing private land without permission (this has been confirmed with individual landowners by local Police) as well as Brisbane City Council and State Government land. These tracts of land have been fenced and many of these four wheel drives are damaging fences in order to gain access for their trail bike access.

The significance of the numbers of vehicles transporting trail bikes to this site is such that on a given weekend approximately 100 trail bikes can be roaring through this specific parcel of land.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

Extreme environmental damage is being done as a result of considerable numbers of trail bikes accessing areas of ecological significance in Parkinson Ward. This includes Brisbane City Council environmental corridor as well as State Government Conservation area.

Many trail bikers treat the land they are riding on as nothing more as a dumping ground for rubbish, tyres and used parts. Photographic evidence is available of this as well as their disregard for 'No Trespassing' signage.

### **DEFICIENCIES IN EXISTING LEGISLATION**

Unfortunately given the nature of Police Operational orders in respect of pursuits it is incredibly difficult for police to apprehend trail bike riders.

I can personally attest to the absolute disregard some of these trail bike riders have for the law, specifically as I have witnessed many riding illegally on the road on unregistered bikes as well as causing deliberate danger to other motorists.

The difficulties facing Police in addressing problem trail bikers who are riding unlicensed, unregistered and uninsured is that unless they are caught in the act there is limited action the Police can take.

Further provisions need to be introduced to permit Police to undertake followup action and penalties where a trail bike has been witnessed accessing a site and there is a clear connection to a motor vehicle.

Residents have expressed to me that they do not believe the existing system is working, it does not serve as a deterrent to people causing a public nuisance and that it is too time consuming for Police to take action against multiple offenders.

They have further expressed to me that they would support greater and more prompt powers of confiscation for Police.

## **PERSONAL SAFETY IMPACTS**

Many residents have raised their concerns with me in respect of the distress the noise causes them and some have explained that some of these riders have become confrontational and aggressive when asked to leave the land by landowner. The existing legislation does not address this situation in any respect and it needs to provide appropriate penalties for trespass situations where trail bikers access private land without consent.

Additionally, some of these trail bikers are riding illegally on the road in a very dangerous manner, which has the potential to place their own lives and others in danger. Teenagers have been witnessed in a group surrounding a security guard in the power transmission line corridor and flicking rocks against his vehicle then taking off across major thoroughfares, as well as crossing major roads to ride to petrol stations or to their homes.

Damage has been sustained to vehicles as a result of attacks by riders throwing rocks and residents have been hounded whilst driving in local streets travelling to their homes.

Complaints have also been received by my office in respect of riders trespassing on private land approaching a young girl walking her dog, which has now led to the situation that her parents will not let her walk alone.

In many respects these trail bike riders are not young families, they are teenagers out to defy the law and men who have no respect for the law.

There are some families who take their children to land which they do not realize is privately owned and assume they can ride their bikes there because other people do. I acknowledge that these parents are at least supervising their children but they do not understand the impact they are having on others living close by.

## **ACCESS TO LAND**

The area of predominant concern in Parkinson Ward runs along the Oxley Creek and adjoining waterway corridors through Willawong, Pallara, Heathwood, Algester and Parkinson coupled with the designated environmental corridors of the Parkinson Bushland, Glider Forest, Qld Rail owned land and the corridor for the power transmission lines and recycled water pipeline .

For the purposes of clear identification I have attached a map with the areas impacted highlighted (included in posted submission).

On any given weekend significant numbers of vehicles have been parked on Paradise Road and Johnson Road for the sole purpose of off-loading off road motorbikes.

In a matter of hours recently, a police operation in the Johnson Road area resulted in the issue of 9 noise abatement direction notices, 20 cautions to 4 wheel drives, with 8 people charged with unlicensed, unregistered and uninsured driving. All of these people were on land they did not have permission to be on.

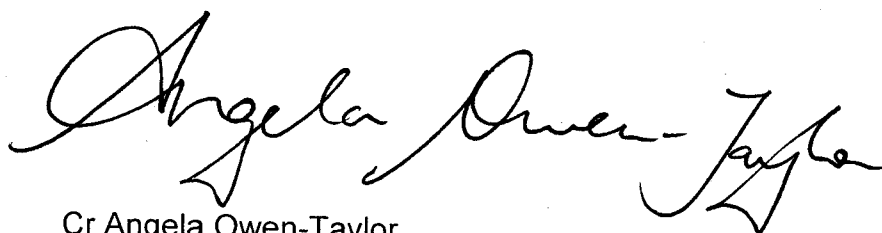
Paperwork requirements in relation to prosecuting trail bike riders is far too onerous and needs to be reduced to permit Police more time to deal with offences rather than be constrained.

Residents have indicated to me that consideration should be given to implementing the penalty that when trail bike riders are causing a public nuisance they should have their motorbike confiscated immediately for a period of one month.

Additionally, it has been indicated to me that there is growing dissatisfaction with parents who not only provide these bikes for their children but allow them to ride unsupervised in areas where they could end up in severe difficulties if they had an accident. From this there has been the indication that some form of penalty should be considered on parents when underage riders are caught riding on public roads.

I trust the information provided in this submission is of benefit when assessing the real impact in the suburbs of noisy off road trail bikes and any subsequent changes to the legislation.

Regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Angela Owen-Taylor". The signature is fluid and extends across the width of the page.

Cr Angela Owen-Taylor  
Councillor for Parkinson Ward  
Deputy Chairman Finance & Administration Committee