

Submission 301

The CMC review of Queensland's
off-road motorbike noise laws(June 2008)
11th August 2008



Submission by Glasshouse Mountains Advancement Network Inc.

The Glasshouse Mountains Advancement Network is a community group with a focus on ensuring appropriate development and sustainable activities around the Glass House Mountains. We have received numerous and continuing complaints about trail bike noise and their destruction of the environment. There appears to be no serious attempt by police to curb these illegal activities, especially at weekends when most of this activity occurs. We have made representation to our local member of our concerns and have offered to show police where many of these illegal activities operate from. These have never been followed up by police. Many of our members have tried to contact the local police at weekends without success. We support some trail running events in the area and the runners and walkers are always hassled by trail bikes.

We are also concerned of the effect of excessive noise on wildlife. We believe that trail bikes are incompatible with all other users of natural areas and pose a significant safety risk to the public. If the government was serious about sustainable activities then trail bikes should be banned from all public lands. The National Parks service has recently tried to close a local walking track near the scenic Glass House Mountains lookout after numerous complaints about trail bike noise in the area. They have felled some 300 trees across the track. The police were obviously unwilling or unable to apprehend the offenders.

The majority of trail bikes are unregistered and it is therefore almost impossible to identify them. This makes the use of security cameras pointless. The user of illegal trail bikes is creating a culture of disrespect for the law and this is reflected in the general increase in hooning, speeding and drink driving on our roads.

Until trail bikes and their riders can be identified it will be impossible to properly police the situation. We think that police should be given the powers to seize any unregistered or unidentifiable vehicle and impound them. The offenders must then prove ownership and be given a couple of weeks to get the bike registered after obtaining a road worthy certificate that includes a noise level check. Second offenders should have their vehicle confiscated.

We have been told that police are not allowed to chase offenders on dirt roads. If this is the case then police do not have sufficient powers to apprehend offenders.

As the problems with off-road noise is increasing in the region, the new laws introduced in July 2006 into the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000(Qld)* are not working. It appears that the police force is very selective about what laws should be enforced.

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