

Submission 349

CMC Review of Motorbike Noise Laws

Attn: Nadine Seifert

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Brisbane Qld 4001

Via email: Nadine.Seifert@cmc.qld.gov.au

Dear Ms Seifert

Re: CMC Review of Motorbike Noise Laws

At its meeting of 17 July 2008, Hinchinbrook Shire Council have resolved to formulate and send a submission on the CMC Review of Motorbike Noise Laws.

Hinchinbrook Shire Council is of the opinion that, overall, the new powers introduced in 2006 into the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 are reasonably efficient at dealing with noise from off-road motorbikes. There are however certain issues which continue, in our opinion, to create problems for residents living next to areas used, lawfully or not, for recreational riding.

The noise pollution from off-road motorbikes is very difficult to control by council, as most such bikes are unregistered and council officers can not identify the riders. The fact that a significant proportion of riders are underage further complicates this matter. It is evident why the Police are in a better position to handle these situations, however while the local police are very efficient, they are also dealing with a large workload at times. Off-road motorbike noise would be a very low priority for police intervention at busy times. This tends to result in residents approaching council for action.

The number of off-road motorbikes and "pocket-rockets" is steadily increasing, mainly due the low prices available for online buyers (e.g. Ebay). It appears that these motorbikes are sold with no or very little information provided to the buyer as to lawful riding and noise pollution. Council is of the opinion that action is required in order to ensure that suitable information is provided to buyers at the point of sale, e.g. reminding parents of their responsibilities if children ride these bikes, especially concerning land use / lawful riding areas and noise pollution.

It is noted that generally safety information is provided to buyers (including by way of warning stickers

(the product), however there is very little or no information referring to environmental protection. In our opinion ensuring that such educational material is provided will contribute significantly to reducing noise pollution from off-road motorbikes, and consequently reducing the number of complaints referred to the police.

Another concern is the actual noise level generated by these motorbikes. It is a fact well known by noise control professionals that noise suppression accessories are costly to the manufacturer. As a result cheap products are generally much louder than the more expensive equivalent. Ensuring that every product sold (including online) is compliant with the relevant Australian Standard or best practice would also contribute towards the reduction of noise pollution.

Should you require any additional information please contact me via return email.

Kind regards

Tudor Tanase

Manager Environmental Health Services

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CC: Jill Wanchap; Robert Clark