

Submission 165

From: Gaven Electorate Office
To: Nadine Seifert
Date: 24/07/2008 12:19pm
Subject: RE: CMC Review Off-Road Motorbike Noise

Nardine

The illegal use of trail bikes is a major issue in this electorate. I had a local developer buy two trail bikes for the Coomera Traffic Branch and this has had good results in removing illegal bike riders from our parks, streets and State Forrest.

Attached are the outcomes of a local seminar I conducted on the issue. It has a number of good suggestions.

Please regard this as a submission.

Phil Gray MP
State Member for Gaven
Phone (07) 5502 1411
Fax (07) 5502 1433
E-mail gaven@parliament.qld.gov.au
PO Box 996 Nerang QLD 4211
www.philgraygetsthingsdone.com

**GAVEN ELECTORATE OFFICE
OUTCOMES OF TRAIL BIKE
WORKSHOP
SATURDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2007**

BACKGROUND

The Gaven Electorate is a large electorate within Gold Coast City covering the Suburbs of Helensvale (including River Downs, Monterey Keys, Pacific Lagoon and Oyster Cave), Oxenford, Gaven, Studio Village, Pacific Pines, Maudsland, Wongawallen, Guanaba, Mt Nathan most of Nerang and part of Molendinar and Ashmore. It also contains the Nerang State Forrest which is accessed through Nerang and Pacific Pines. This State Forrest along with a large amount of vacant land for future urban growth in Pacific Pines and Maudsland provide ideal riding conditions for illegal trail bike use. In addition the interregional transport corridor through Helensvale, Monterey Keys and River Downs provides such space.

The complaints by residents about the noise, dust and behaviour of illegal trail bike riders in these vicinities and on local roads, parks and school grounds are constant. These are directed to the Nerang and Coomera Police Stations, the National Parks and Wildlife Rangers, the Local Law Enforcement Officers of the Gold Coast City Council (GCCC), the local Councillor and to me

as the State Member of Parliament.

The situation is further exacerbated by the fact that the three Motor Cross clubs in Gold Coast City at Reedy Creek, Arundel and Stapleton/Yatala have been identified as being under development pressure which will result in all three seeking relocation. A current proposal of the GCCC to relocate Reedy Creek to Molendinar is not in the best interest of the club or local residents because the site is too small and too close to existing homes. The need for a large Motor Sports combined facility has been well known and well supported in Gold Coast City for some time. The reluctance of the GCCC to deal with the matter complicates the situation.

The ability of local police to deal with the number of complaints has been laudable and has been assisted by the donation of two trail bikes to the traffic branch at the Coomera Police Station by the Stockland Group.

As a result of the ongoing nature of the concern and the number of complaints the Gaven Electorate Office organised a workshop on trail bike concerns which has held at the Pacific Pines Community Centre on Saturday 17 November 2007. This was attended by Police Officers, National Parks and Wildlife Officers, Local Law Compliance Officer of the GCCC, representatives of the local motor sport groups, residents and representative of residents associations.

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OUTCOMES

Following information sessions by each of the agencies present, the gathering of over 50 representatives divided into small groups for discussion. The groups' discussion bore great commonality and all groups produced outcomes directed to three possible solutions.

These are:

- ✓ Legislative Suggestions;
- ✓ Enforcement and Education Suggestions; and
- ✓ Provision Suggestions.

LEGISLATIVE SUGGESTIONS, A RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES

Federal.

- Import restrictions on the import of small motor bikes (commonly referred to as pocket rockets and other small pit bikes)
- If imported as a toy they are dangerous, if imported as a motor bike they would not meet the mechanical standards required.
- Use of tariffs to prohibit the import of such motor bikes. (pocket rockets and pit bikes)

State

Change legislation to enact:

- Compulsory registration of all motorised bikes and vehicles at Point Of Sale (POS) as occurs with cars, this then requires registration fees and compulsory third party charges.

- Registration revenue could be used to limit the damage to the environment and to finance alternate facilities for motor cross and other motor sports.
- Modelled on Victorian legislation implement technical requirements so cheap and dangerous bikes are taken off the road.
- Limit noise outputs of trail bikes to limit noise impact on residents.
- Revisit the extension of limited powers to local government officers in respect to illegal trail bike use on council lands.

Local

- Revisit the extension of limited powers to local government officers in respect to illegal trail bike use on council lands.

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ENFORCEMENT AND EDUCATION SUGGESTIONS, A RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES

State

- Education programs at school levels to inform students of the dangers and penalties of illegal trail bike use and also the provision of legal alternatives, motor cross clubs, commercial and government owned site for legal pursuit of trail bike riding.
- Education program for parents as above and to inform parents of existing police powers to impose penalties for their children's illegal trail bike riding activities.
- Implement local notification programs 'Dob in an illegal trail bike rider' where locals can identify where children and others with bikes which are unregistered or ridden by people illegally live and the information passed to the police or other community member for passing on to the police. Police with then undertake a home visitation program to inform and educate children, parents and others of legal use of trail bikes, locations of legal tracks, clubs and activities.
- Review of current police powers in respect to motor bike offences and parental responsibility.

PROVISION SUGGESTIONS

The meeting was of one mind that the State Government and the Local Council had an obligation to identify a parcel/s of land where a joint motor sports facility could be located in an area which would guarantee long term security from encroachment from residential development.

That such facility should be developed by joint motor sports club administrations with government assistance if required and under a head of legislation at a State level.

FINAL COMMENT

This workshop recognised both the problem and impact of illegal trail bike use in urban communities as well as the need for provision for trail bike sport users in the wider context. Gold Coast City has produced a number of world champion motor cycle riders and is the home of INDY and of three of the super V8 series teams. It has a long history of motor sport and is supportive of the

development of provision.

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It also recognised the commercial benefits that would flow from such provision with the ability to conduct National and International events for motor sport.

While all of this recognised it remains that the illegal use of trail bikes has a great impact on the quality of life that people should expect to enjoy in an urban environment.

DOCUMENT STATUS

This document is as is stated in the background, the outcomes of a discussion meeting amongst those affected by the impact of trail bikes in the electorate of Gaven. It does not represent government policy but I will submit the outcomes for consideration by government at State and Federal level.



Phil Gray MP
Member for Gaven
22 November 2007

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Nadine.

As far as I know the Gold Coast City Council has not taken action because of their limited legal basis to do so. I am happy to have the workshop outcomes listed on the website as long as the context in which it was generated is included. There is no need to keep my details confidential.

Cheers

Phil Gray MP
State Member for Gaven
Phone (07) 5502 1411
Fax (07) 5502 1433
E-mail gaven@parliament.qld.gov.au
PO Box 996 Nerang QLD 4211
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