

Individual Submission no.1

To: Nadine Seifert
Date: 14/06/2008
Subject: Off Road Motorbike Noise

I have on many occasions had cause to phone police and local council regards the noise levels of motorbikes and quadbikes, and had little or no response to my complaints. There just seemed to be pass the buck attitude. I purchased my home close to the beachfront with dreams of a peaceful life away from the noise of the city, only to have the thoughtless people racing their bikes up and down the beach most weekends. The beach should only be for pedestrian traffic as far as I am concerned. Children play down there and people walk dogs and fish down there, so I feel it is not the place for the revheads and their bikes. The noise carries for miles as it echoes off the water. They can be down there for hours at a time, so the windows and doors of the house have to be kept closed to block out the offensive noise. I cannot sit out by our pool and garden and relax. I am a prisoner in my own home or have to hop in my car and go out to escape the noise. Then there are the parents who buy quadbikes for children as young as four and five year olds. **THEY DO NOT WEAR HELMETS** most of the time and there is nowhere for them to ride except for on vacant blocks of land in residential areas. Just happens to be next door to my house!!!!!! I liken the noise to a whippersnipper going for hours, usually in the late afternoon around the time the news is on in the evenings. The question is why buy, if there is nowhere to ride??????, and do they not care about their childrens safety as I have also witnessed them doubling a baby on front. We only have to read the newspaper to see just how many accidents happen with quadbikes!!!!!! I respect everyone's peace and quiet, and expect others to do so also. Somehow I cannot see this happening in Brisbane or Goldcoast, just because we are a smaller community does not justify ignorance. The number of offroad bikes seems to be increasing in this area due to clearing of land for development, it seems to attract them like magnets. The police presence seems to be concentrating on the one area, cars. If there is a law for hooning in cars why is there not one for motorbikes on beaches!!!!!! The council does not want to take responsibility and the police don't seem to put it in a high priority, but to us who have to put up with the constant noise it is infuriating.

To: Nadine Seifert
Date: 29/06/2008 11:28am
Subject: off road motorbike noise .

Nadine, Here we are again 10am start with the offensive noise, and school holidays about to get started it is only going to get worse. 70% of these are kids no older than 15, and bikes are not registered and probably not mechanically roadworthy. Are these bikes allowed sold unregistered, add the registration to the cost of the bike and see how many parents purchase them then, and they should have the muffler systems monitored from manufacture stage. Are their bikes confiscated for hooning, and do they receive fines for loud exhausts. I just want to be able to relax in my own home without having to put up with this constant invasion.

Individual Submission no.2

To: Nadine Seifert
Date: 14/06/2008 8:22pm
Subject: Motor cycle noise issue

Dear Nadine, I thought I'd submit my views on the motor cycle noise issue mainly concerning trail and moto cross bikes. First off I ride a motocross bike, my wife rides a trailbike and my two sons both ride motocross bikes. We participate in safe and sensible way with regards to riding, everyone wears the appropriate safety gear and ride in a safe manner. I think there are several issues at stake here:

- 1/ The misconception that all riders are hoons.
- 2/ The media should promote the positive side of the sport instead of sensationalizing the negative.
- 3/ Council spends millions on skate/BMX parks yet seems to be anti motocross, trail bikes and seems more motivated to close down any existing tracks creating a negative on both sides. If they granted permission for more private tracks in a selected zoned area away from residential zoned areas it may reduce the negative attitudes on both sides.

A more positive would be the police promoting a positive image with the riders maybe going to schools to promote bike safety/ places to ride/ equipment to wear.

Stocklands could sponsor the development of the sport in the appropriate area or sponsor a track.

5/ The majority of off road bike ridden in local parks are pitbikes not motocross or trailbikes. Maybe the distributors and sellers of these pitbike should also let the buyers know where to ride legally as well as advise them not to be used in public park etc. A disclaimer might be a good start, so there are no excuses. This could be provided by the police outlining the laws regarding riding.

Obviously no one is against the police acting on these offenses.

6/ As for the fines currently outlined under the act, I think instead of fining and trying to confiscate the bikes, community service would be a better option. Having the offenders repay the community by working in the public parks or areas they were damaging. Obviously if the offender is a serial offender then fines should come into play but \$3000 is over the top.

The main things are education, safety, appropriate places to ride (both tracks and trail areas), a combined community response and not a onesided view and for the police to interact with riding group and clubs. A great idea would be a police liaison to deal directly with both complaints, community and riders. So they can see the problems from both angles and can better resolve any ongoing issues.

Thank you for your time.
XXXX

Individual Submission no. 4

June 15, 2008

Re. Comment on noisy and dangerous motor bikes

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to request that the stat legislature consider the following proposal to curb the number of unregistered motorised vehicles.

In my experience, complaints from citizens of excessive noise tie-up police time and rarely prevent further complaints as the 'joy riders' return some weeks later. The most effective complainants cite the name and address of the rider if they are known.

1. Make the purchase of these vehicles 'difficult' prior to the sale of the vehicle. This may involve application forms, application fees and written proof that the purchaser has sufficient property to operate the vehicle. This may deter the parents from allowing their children riding motorbikes being operated on suburban housing blocks.
2. Do not permit motorised vehicles to be sold for the use of small children. At the moment there are seven and eight-year-olds riding 50cc 'quads' and small motorbikes. This poses an unnecessary risk to the lives of children.
3. Enforce emissions standards for all motorised vehicles including small motor bikes. If I may offer an example from living in the country XXX; my neighbour lost his son as a result of a motorbike accident. Ten years later he allowed his six-year-old daughter to ride a four-wheeled motorcycle around their half acre property. However, she sometimes strays onto the road. This is where I narrowly avoided colliding with her. This danger needs to be eliminated with some of vigour the police service pours into speed management.
4. With the assistance of the federal government, change the ADRs for motorcycles and recreational vehicles.
5. Legislate against motorcycle and small engine mechanics from working on and repairing illegally modified vehicles. Vehicles would have to maintain their factory exhaust systems.
6. Dictate that only adults who possess motorcycle licences to purchase motorcycles and small vehicles. This will have the effect of slowing the trade of these vehicles.
7. Legislate that all vehicles over 100cc be fitted with registration plates.

8. Grant police the power to impound vehicles and to charge both the owner (an adult) and the user.
9. Involve local councils in the abatement of noise pollution for all citizens. I have some experience in 'buck passing' here. My complaint about a council-built walkway being a conduit for noisy motorcycles (and rarely pedestrians) fell on deaf ears from the police, the shire council and Queensland Rail through whose land the track passed. Each threw up its hands and said "this is not my responsibility". This needs attention.
10. I suggest there be a costing of the many injuries that arise from recreation motor cycle use and cost of which is inevitably borne by the health system.
11. While the riders are to blame, I believe that property owners are turning a blind eye to the problem. There is barely a farm in XXXX which has not been used illegally by motorcyclists. I would like to ask land-holders take part in discussions and find a solution to what I regard as a growing problem.

While these changes would undoubtedly affect recreational motorcycle riders and the members of motorcycle clubs, it should be remembered that serious competitors will have already complied with the changes I have proposed.

Yours sincerely,

XXXX

Individual Submission no. 5

To: Nadine Seifert
Date: 15/06/2008
Subject: Off road motor bikes

Dear Nadine,

I am a resident of Cungulla which is situated approx. 30 kilometres south of Townsville. We are a beach side community of around 300 residents, as you can guess by that number of people we are very quiet. The only thing is on the week-ends our beach which we call Samon Beach or Long Beach is invaded by off road motor bikes some Saturdays and Sundays there can be up to 20-30 bikes on the beach at the same time, they even bring their own high jumps, witches hats that they use as a race track, the locals like to go down there on the week-ends fishing or to take the family down for lunch, it is a shame that we are in danger of being run over by these idiots on bikes as they have no respect for anyone else around them. The bikes have to go through a national park to get to the beach, where they ride up and down the sand dunes which they have just about wrecked. The locals have complained to the police but they have said they can't do anything while they are on the beach. We have rung the national parks and EPA and they did come down and fined the ones that came down that day but the bikes are back in force. All these bikes come from Townsville and have wrecked our quiet suburb. The police need to be given more powers over these idiots before someone is killed, or somewhere in Townsville or close to it for them to go where they don't annoy anyone. I would appreciate it if you don't use my name if this letter is published.

Individual Submission no. 8

To: Nadine Seifert
Date: 15/06/2008
Subject: Offroad motorbike noise.

Dear Nadine,

My say as follows.

I live in Townsville and close to the bush, my family is disturbed on weekends and some weekdays by excessively loud motorbikes, these are unregistered motocrosses which are made for closed course competition only. Why do they ride here?

The motocross track is about twenty kilometres out of town, enough said. Residents in my neighbourhood complain, this results in the Police patrolling the streets...not the bush !!! And people such as myself riding my registered and quite off road bike with my licence get pulled up on the street to be checked. This is a waste of police time. I am sure they don't have the resources to go into the bush.

So I believe in the following.

1. There are not enough riding areas for off road bikes.
2. No person should be allowed to ride near houses.
3. All bikes should be registered if ridden outside of closed course club tracks. This way they have legal mufflers at least.
4. How do you get anyone to respect noise laws when Harley Davidson motorcycles ride all over town with no mufflers at all.
5. Police need off road bikes to patrol the correct areas.

Thanks for the opportunity to have a say.

XXXX

Thanks again.

Individual Submission no. 9

To: Nadine Seifert
Date: 16/06/2008
Subject: off road motorbike noise

why make stronger laws after the problem, why not look at the problem itself, that where once riders could ride is now more than likely now close to housing development and so the conflict begins. Riders now have to travel great distances to ride somewhere where some noise generated by bikes is not a problem to the general public. As a bike rider, we do not want the conflict between the general public nor the police, but merely seek somewhere to ride. The number of motorcycles sold in Australia has generated a large industry of economic wealth not to be regarded flippantly. These new areas riders now go to, State Forest and National Parks, are now a problem as rangers and greenies don't want you in there even if you don't ride anywhere near the areas used by the general public. Four Wheel Drive clubs can use these same areas with no problem, just not off road bikes. I agree with noise laws on any machine but you have to be fair. How many times have you been passed on the road by a group of Harley Davidson riders who heard the noise generated by these bikes. My solution is simple, make it easy access for mums and dads to take their kids somewhere to ride. Make access to State Forests and National Parks simple and easy to bikes of all types, even those that are not able to be registered and take the problem away from the general public.

Individual Submission no. 12

To: Nadine Seifert
Date: 16/06/2008
Subject: CMC Review Of Motorbike Noise Laws

Dear Nadine,

This email is in regards to the request for comments regarding the CMC Review Of Motorbike Noise Laws published in the Courier Mail on June 14-15, 2008.

My partner and I live in [redacted] and have been there since XXXX 2007. At first we thought we had built in a very quiet and peaceful area after living in XXXX for the past 12 years. It wasn't long before we discovered that the area is regularly used by trail bike riders with extremely noisy, unregistered trail bikes. This usually occurs on Saturday's and Sunday's from as early as 8am and can continue until sunset. Sometimes there are 2, 3 and up to 4 riders going at once for hours on end. They are riding on private property, on-road and off, with unregistered bikes sometimes in dangerous conditions. I have seen kids as young as under 10 years old riding tandem up our street in the middle of the road.

On occasion I have been at breaking point. The noise these bikes emit is extremely loud and very irritating. I'm sure the surrounding neighbours feel the same.

There are no signs in the area stating that riding loud, unregistered motorbikes on private property is prohibited and on the couple of occasions I have called the police, by the time they get here it's too late.

As residents of XXXX we would strongly urge that tough measures be put in place to prohibit trail bike riders from riding within a specified distance of residential dwellings (10km's) and certainly not on private property and on our roads. Someone will get killed !!!

Please let me know where we stand when it comes to this matter and who we can direct our complaints too, to get some further action.

Thanks for the reply. I am happy to have my comments posted.

Individual Submission 13

XXXX

Attention : Nadine Seifert

Dear Nadine,

Thank you for your further information over the phone yesterday. My wife & I discussed this last night and have put down some of our experiences during this most unsavoury experience where we live.

We have put up with very noisy/dusty 2-stroke motor-cross racing bikes over a 6 year period (1998 – 2004), [on some occasions there were 2 bikes] we live in a group of 5-6 acre lots and massive clouds of dust were disgraceful. We initially requested to our neighbours after some weeks that this was excessive noise/dust for extended periods (eg. all Sunday afternoon). We approached them & offered to negotiate on a mutual time that they could ride the bike/s but we were told "we don't have to negotiate as you can't stop us anyway so go away &...." (the rest of the conversation I can't repeat)

We were verbally abused, sworn at and physically threatened, we were told by them to call the Police, Council or anyone we liked as we will not be able to stop them and if you don't like it move away. They had no concern that we had 2 children under 2 years of age that were sleeping etc. I sought legal advice regarding the physical threats and my Solicitor told me not to go over there in order to keep safe & that he could not do anything to help us other than to write them a letter requesting them to stop the noise but they would rip it up anyhow.

We called the police the next week end they stopped them for 24 hours but it started again. We received abusive phone calls and threats of legal action because we were harassing them by calling the police. They said it was not loud and were amazed that we could hear it in our house only 70-80 meters away! The noise from these bikes is extremely loud.

We called the police the next weekend, the officers were very good and they gave us a report back on the conversation. An interesting twist was that they told the police that they had the XXXX Council environmental officer out to measure the noise levels of the motor bike and that the bike was measured at acceptable noise levels , so the police left. So I followed that up with the XXXX Council to obtain the actual measurements but the environmental

officer stated to me that it was not true, he did not visit the site and would not perform those measurements as that was not appropriate for his position.

At this stage the police suggested all we could do was to continue to call them when we had problems which was 3-4 times week, we did that sometimes but we were not happy doing that as we saw it a big waste of police resources and a bother to them.

We went overseas on holidays in 2004 and when we returned we found many beer bottles smashed (after a party next door) all over our garage, garage roof and driveway and we could not let our children out of the car due to the amount of glass everywhere. All we could do here was clean up the mess we were too stressed to call the police as we had had enough. These residences are high value assets so this caused us great concern at this time.

This situation has caused our family great distress over an extended period of time, we tried every thing to stop the noise & aggravation but we failed. We were at wits end !! We contacted the Clerk of the Court but they could not help us either, threats etc had to be proven & they had no power to stop the noise.

We were advised to write a letter to the Officer in Charge of the XXXX Police station outlining our problem, we did some research and obtained a detailed plan/map outlining where we live and detailing what we had to deal with and how close the bikes were to our house. The police responded to us and they were great but they had no power to prevent this happening. The police followed up with the EPA for us but they had no power either in respect to the dust or the noise.

All they could suggest was that the kid will grow up & move away, which he did eventually but they still won the battle as it was all dictated by them and we suffered as a result, which we think set a bad precedent as they know we just had to grin & bear the problems they caused us.

We used to stay in town after school/work and not come home until dark as the bike would be stopped on dark. In summer we had the bike going until 7.00 pm some evenings, it is too hot to shut all the windows to block out the noise. We used to have to go places on the week ends to get away from the stress as we simply could not bear any more motor bike noise/dust any longer.

Currently we do not see that the problem has gone away as on weekends we can still hear other loud motor bikes some distance away and we spare a thought for others who are battling this problem. We are sure there are people out there who are not game or able to speak up about this problem.

We felt really helpless and stressed with this problem as people (Police, Council) were listening and understanding what we were going through but they were completely powerless to stop it.

We see this the same as hooning in cars, they should go out to the drag track & motor-cross bike club tracks and ride all day **[safely]** and have fun knowing they are doing the right thing and not ruining peoples lives.

Early in this saga the lad next door crashed his bike when his parents weren't home and we had to call an ambulance and get help for him, no one bothered to take that into account when it got nasty !!

We have not had trouble with noisy motor bikes so far with the new laws (2006) in place but we can still hear loud annoying bikes on weekends in our area and they will be annoying some one where they are. Our main worry is that if we get new neighbours on day we will be back to square one again if they have motor bikes so we would be very keen to see things tightened up and police have powers to put a stop to this menace. Motor bikes are fine in their place & when used correctly. We also see kids in town riding those imported cheap Chinese kids bikes they are very annoying too.

There are still people on occasion riding noisy unregistered motor bikes down our bitumen road on weekends as the police will never catch them out here due to the many escape routes. You can hear them for kilometres as they travel along.

We personally would never subject our neighbours to noise/aggravation of any sort (we do not have motor bikes or barking dogs). We also could not live there knowing we were causing other people great distress where they were living because of your own selfish actions.

Thank you for letting us tell our story.

Yours sincerely
XXX

Individual Submission no. 14

To: Nadine Seifert
Date: 16/06/2008
Subject: off-road motorbikes

Hello Nadine

I saw your article in the Sunshine Coast Daily regarding off-road motorbikes. I was unaware of the new laws introduced in July 2006. To be honest, as residents, we have had little support from local government or council to combat the problem in our area.

We live in a rural area surrounded by State Forest Yandina QLD. This forest is used by off-road bikers on a regular basis. Barriers and gates were put up in the entry points, but these were either bowled over or the locks on gates were physically cut off.

Nothing has since been done to combat this problem. Even the riders illegally riding down the roads has not prompted the police to become involved. They say is it too big or difficult a problem to police. Where and who do we go for support in this issue?

Regards
XXXX

Individual Submission no. 16

To: Nadine Seifert
Date: 17/06/2008
Subject: Off-Road Motorbike Noise

Dear Ms Seifert

The issue of Off-Road Motorbike Noise is greater than just the noise they make.

Having said that one has to ask the question:

Why does a single vehicle carrying a single individual make more noise than a Public Transport Bus carrying 40+ people?

The noise issue must be addressed with both the manufacturers and the compliance agencies of Australia.

Vehicles of all kinds should only make noise commensurate with their contribution to society as a whole.

A jumbo jet carrying 400 people or a Public Transport Bus carrying 40 people are efficient and desirable uses of transport.

Yet these vehicles face higher scrutiny and harsher noise abatement requirements, than a 50 cc motorbike, whose only use is to carry a single individual.

The other issue of Off-Road Motorbikes is:

Why are they allowed at all on public roads?

If they are designed for Off-Road use then that is where they should be used.

The noise issue in our area has just as much to do with the passing of the Motorbikes through densely populated areas.

The Off-Road Motorbike should be confined to use on Private Land or Special Public land set aside for their use.

As a resident of Coolum it is most disturbing to see and hear Off-Road Motorbikes racing through the adjacent National Park Land.

Hardly a preferred activity in an area set aside for the preservation of flora and fauna!!

In summary I recommend:

More restrictions on the importation and compliance of Motorbikes with respect to their noise pollution capacity.

Off Road Motorbikes to be restricted from use on Public roads and National
Parks

XXXX

Happy to have my comments public, although not my address or email
address