

**Individual Submission 252**

**To:** Nadine Seifert  
**Date:** 11/08/2008  
**Subject:** trail bikes

Dear Nadine,  
Please find attached my submission on Trail Bikes.  
Thank you, and good luck & good management,  
Love and energy .....XXXX

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

XXXX Glass House Mts

I am documenting the flora of the Glasshouse Mountains and surrounds so I am often out and about in the National Parks and State Forests, Mountain tops and swamps. I used to enjoy it but in the last 3 years I almost dread it. As I go alone I am fearful of trail bikes especially if more than three. The noise and environmental devastation is horrendous. It really upsets me and no one seems to care or enforce the law or put laws on them. The sounds of the bush is spoiled by these noisy intrusive machines. The complete opposite of Nature. If on a Mountain the loud whine and roars are still audible, in fact even louder and they spoil the sense of beauty, peace and healing. Not good for a National Heritage Area and National Parks, where the public go for a Bush experience, peace and get relief from stress, a safety valve, a return to our roots and sanity. Saves the Government thousands in preventative health costs. The poor native fauna who have evolved to mate and warn each other through sounds. It has been scientifically proved they cant get their messages out with noise. Accumulative noise from all motorised vehicles and human loud music and one of the loudest, Trail bikes.

**Trail bikes with their noise are the start of a lawless society**

**The noise of trail bikes is part of a larger iceberg.**

**Petty crime starts here..** ..often stolen cards, and purses are found along the trail bike routes, (Barrs Road just before the creek crossing/ Woodford Road Powerlines meeting spot/ 1<sup>st</sup> turning off Woodford Road going to GH Lookout and passed the parking area left, another meeting area) even the gear stolen female police from Caloundra at the end of a trail bike track in Tibrogaran National Park.

- They learn they can ignore no entry signs, locked gates,

fences, police and rangers.

- Drive on roads from about 3 years old to adult hood.
  - All without license and some with parents encouraging them.
- Have drag races up and down dirt roads and not be caught.
- Police are not allowed to chase bikes on a dirt road. They can't chase them through the bush.

- During Trail 100 walkers and runners the Trail bikes go down the roads shut for the runners. The signs changed so runners go the wrong way. Roar passed where we serve the food. Only a few slow down, the rest delight in seeing the dust go over us.

**Erosion.** The wheels form ruts and speed the water flow. When the ruts get too deep they form another track. Water then rips down them and 1 metre deep rut quickly follow. The creeks silting up and terrible weeds choke out all the natives. A visit to the 'Powerlines' and the 'Goat track' off Woodford road are a moon scape and a disgrace. Too hard to get through so keep going out wider and wider..

- They go cross country up slopes in National Parks/Forest Reserves to the walking tracks riding over the steps and drainage dips, displacing and ruining them.

**Rare and Threatened plants** *Gonocarpus effusa* grows beside a once very narrow track that they have discovered. I have walked it for 30 years with no ill effects. But in last 10 years with trail bikes and horses it has eroded over a foot down, so it is difficult to ride in, so move out from it. When a tree falls they just ride around it flattening and eroding the next site. There are laws to protect T & R plants. But this is not being enforced. National Parks are not given enough \$ and workers to police and protect.

- Plants that were common in wet areas, minute orchids and other kinds of delicate little plants in damp areas that I was studying are no more, due to the trail bikes roaring through the mud full tilt to get the spray of mud effect. Apart from ruining the drainage, the cost to the Departments having to regrade the roads to keep them open for fires is big. And loss of our local culture.

- Many of once common flora are gone through accumulative effect of trail bikes and 4WD's, development rail and road up grade and climate change.

**Litter** ...Where they congregate its a litter dump, bottles, cans, plastic and wrappers of other junk foods.

I am fearfull and wearied when I hear them coming. They seem to find it sport once they have seen me, they rev up, show off with wheelies, dirt showering, as they pass, sometimes a wave and often nearly falling off in the process. Off they go but one time, I kept walking checking the flora when 15 to 30 minutes later I can hear them homing in on me, circling the blocks till they find me and more showing off. 3 or 4 times. I hide now so not seen. I don't feel safe.

- The other day passing slowly a group of trail bikers that were standing without helmets resting, and one in particular look quite evil looking at me. The hairs on my neck and arm rose. This has only happened 3 times in my long life. I was pleased I

was in the car.

If hubby and I stop to have a cuppa in the bush we get out of view off track in case a pack of trail bikes come by. Not a healthy way to live in Australia.

**Danger to themselves and the public**

- We had to screech to an avoiding swerve in our car as T. bikes roared across the main drag dirt cross road, racing each other. We trundle along as aware of the fools and crazies out there. A nasty accident avoided.

- We witnessed 2 bikes nearly crashing at a dirt cross road .

- My husband witnessed a mothers with pram nearly knocked over as bike flew around the corner on a bike track. She was terrified.

- My husband is fit and alert but even he nearly got wiped out when he had to leap off the road as they came over a crest on the wrong side.

- Father and his 2 kids being trained on and South of Moffat Road. The tracks all cut up as they rev around the corners and drag.

- Seen 3 to 4 year old riding down Moffat Road.

- Very guilty young bike rider trying to avoid me knowing he was unregistered and under age. Hadn't joined a group and learnt the tricks I suppose.

- They love dirt crossroads just graded, Trackyte Circuit Car park is great for spins and churning them up.

**Trail bikes riders grow up and buy 4WD and do the same things.**

The mud blasters are out in force after the rain. West of Mt Beerwah the wide roads are just ploughed field. Erosion, dangerous, litter and huge costs to Government departments re grading and wasting our precious fuel.

**Trail bikes riders grow up and use their petty crime schooling to do bigger crimes.**

You can now buy your 1 year old a plastic trail bike. What hope is there? Do the parents know what their children may get involved in.

- **Enforcement** ...Beerwah got a new police station and we were all told 18 new police. Great. **BUT**..... You ring and your call is connected to Landsborough, Maroochydore or Noosa. By the time they come (if they come at all) it's a waste of time. There are never any there when you call but if attended we get asked 'Do you want to report this?' Why did we bother to go there if we didn't want to be reported and go on the statistics..

It would be nice if our reporting led to catching offender and we are then notified. Encourage us to report more. Locals have given up.

**Solution ideas that may help trigger better ideas....**

\* **Trail bikes love it after the rain not while it is raining.** A good time to catch them.

\* **Photograph the trailer and car that carries the trail bikes.** If you know where they drop off the bikes just sit there with a camera hidden. When they are out riding rephotograph the number plate of trailer and car close up. I did it in NSW as I watched

them down load and lift bikes over a bike barrier and ride around for an hour and return over a fence and load. There for ages and I sat and drank tea.

\* Its the illegal riders that need to be stamped out. Confiscate the bikes if unregistered for 2 years plus a fine.

\* Test offenders brains, hearing, sight and or an allergy mainly sugars. They could easily be deficiencies and need health help. I am a trained nurse and interested in causes and diet of delinquency and prison people. Huge percentage have been found to be deficient.

\* Registered bikes and riders be mark them both clearly or with a hidden chip that can be read at speed, covered in mud and at an angle on jacket or Helmet. It's the brain of the rider steering and making decisions that should be registered. Registered owners lend their bikes to family and friends and I suppose a jacket and helmet can be too.

\* Registered bikes and rider need a license too re rules, how to behave and respect the environment. Worse than cars having no regulation and riding on roads and cycle tracks to get to some fun spot. Disobey standard deterrents and open to babes to adult hood. A huge disaster waiting to happen.

\* May be if a registered area be put aside for the huge amount of illegal riders and their bikes kept there and they sign a contract that they ride there at their own risk. Separate but near the registered riders. It will drive the town folk insane if they ride around their suburban house block.

\* Put silencers on the bikes. Everything else has limits why not them.

\* Advertising on TV, magazines etc have warnings like smoking ads. Present ads push the mud, speed and a great time. May be warnings that the damage they cause to the environment and our planet will suffer. Do your bit to protect it. I think it is an Olympic sport now so more encouragement to start younger. MAY be removed from Olympic sport due to the damage they cause.

All this would lead to :-

\* Cost savings to the Government in health bills, having a peaceful area for the public to recharge and exercise in with nature sounds and smells.

\* Cost Savings for the Government in Environmental damage and repair.

\* Cost Savings for the Government National Parks for the endless repairs, deterrents that are cut, pushed over or rode around.

\* \* Cost Savings for the Government and Council for all the road repairs and damaged caused by them.

\* 4WD/mud blasters/ should be looked at too for noise and environmental damage and wasting fuel. Clubs say they have correctness rules but are they when on their own with non club members?? Not every one is a club member

**ENFORCEMENT NOT MORE RULES**

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Individual Submission 253

To: Nadine Seifert  
Date: 12/08/2008  
Subject: Attention : Nadine Seifert - Submission on trail bike hooning

Hello Nadine,

My name is XXXX. My family and I have a 30 acre property 15 minutes outside XXXX. We have lived there for the past 20 years. All the properties around us are approximately the same size. Our experience with trail bikes started when the neighbours moved away, and rented their house. We have observed up to 8 trail bikes at one time roaring around the property boundaries. We have approached the landlord and the response was that they can do what they like as long as they pay the rent.

I would like to see the laws changed to protect people who wish to live in the country without the noise pollution and dust from trail bikes. There is also some rare plants and animals in our area that need protecting.

New laws should include the following,

- \* No riding bikes within 500 metres of a neighbours boundary
- \* No riding of bikes in Rural Residential Areas under 200 acres
- \* The above could only be overturned with written approval from all adjoining neighbours.
- \* Police to have the power to impound offenders bikes on the spot and issue fines.
- \* Limit the number of bikes to the size of the property. eg. 1 bike on 200 acres for the moving of stock.
- \* A study to be conducted on the impact to the land where bikes are to be ridden.
- \* Permit or licences to be obtained for all off road bikes.
- \* Designated suitable land should be set aside for trail bike clubs to have there meets.

Most land holders are very responsible people who care for their land and the environment, but we need help when some in the community only have their own interest at heart. I hope the CMC look favourable upon my suggestions.

Kind Regards

XXXX

**Individual Submission 254**

**To:** Nadine Seifert  
**Date:** 12/08/2008  
**Subject:** Qld Off-Road Motorbike Noise Laws

I am writing this email on behalf of the undersigned and have reviewed the CMC Issues Paper and wish to make the following comments. We live in an area with small acreages between 2 - 10 acres lots and both of our families have lived at our addresses for 18 and 21 years respectively. Both of our properties back on to a Council Reserve of some 30 acres and over the aforementioned period have suffered dust, noise, and verbal abuse from off-road motorbike riders speeding through this reserve as a means to get from one place to another even though there are signs declaring it is illegal to ride motorbikes through the area. We have campaigned the local council year after year to have this Reserve fenced off in some way to deter motorbikes, which only recently they have provided. These barriers are still ineffective as the riders simply lift the bikes over and continue on their way. When the police are called the bikes are long gone and when the Council is called they cannot provide the resources required either. The only reason we have received some assistance in regards to the barriers erected is due to the our local Councillor, Ms Hajnal Ban who has listened to our plight. We do not suffer from just these bikes only being ridden past our door, but also other inconsiderable morons who ride for hour after hour on their own properties disturbing the neighbourhood's right to peace and quiet, particularly on a weekend.

We do not believe that the new laws are effective enough due to several reasons.

1. There are not enough police or Council resources to police the new laws.
2. As these motorbikes are not registered in any way and do not have a licence plate, they can evade the police or Council as they can speed away and go where police nor Council cars can follow. Not being able to identify the rider due to helmets and other protective gear is also a disadvantage.
3. In regards to the second noise complaint where a person can be changed with a /Noise Abatement Direction Offence /and may be fined up to \$750.00, there is a loophole that states when dealing with a person under 17 years of age police can consider alternative such as issuing a caution. This to us is totally useless as the majority of trail bikes are ridden by youths who are under 17 years old and if they know all they get is a caution, then the law is totally spineless as far as they are concerned. Bikes should be confiscated and not given back to serial offenders. The fact that the police require you to film the offenders in action is ridiculous, that is their job not the communities. Doing this could be putting yourself in a compromising situation when faced with the mentalities of some of these offenders. They believe they have the right to annoy others without any consideration and can become aggressive when confronted.

On the issue of off-road bikes not being registered, why can't they be licensed so that the authorities can keep track of who commits offences and if caught the police can readily identify to whom the bike belongs and where the offender lives. It must be very easy at this point to give a false name and address to an officer, particularly if they are not carrying any means of identification while riding which the vast majority would not. This licensing system should bear a cost just the same as vehicle registration and this would enable the rogue element to be monitored more closely. Off-road bikes should carry a registration plate the same as street bikes, albeit a different colour or size.

I'm sure that even though the new laws have been introduced there have been very little or few charges being laid and probably even less bikes impounded, but the problem itself with them annoying the general public is growing larger and larger.

In essence we are all of the belief that the new laws have not made one iota of difference in this neighbourhood, and as stated previously one of the main reasons for this is the lack of police or council resources to be able to tack the problem when help is needed, not 2 or 3 days later.

We believe there that off-road bikes need to registered and the riders licensed way with fees to pay, and the police should be given more power to seize bikes on the spot.

Yours faithfully

XXXX

Individual Submission 255

To: Nadine Seifert  
Date: 12/08/2008  
Subject: noise from motorcycles

Hi, regarding revising the noise laws.

I would like to tell you that we have a problem in XXXX, Jimboomba. Just about opposite us is a family with motor cycles and not only do they roar around on their own property they also ride up and down the road at what they presume to be quiet times, and without proper head gear sometimes.

We not only are annoyed by the noise but worried by the fact that someone may have a bad accident as this is a very busy road and that they often do not wear protective clothing.

Also a family just up from them also have bikes as we can hear them as well. We know people have acreage so that the kids can ride but do they have to have silencers with holes in them so they make more noise?

Thanks XXXX Jimboomba. 4280



## OFF ROAD MOTORBIKES SUBMISSION

### Current laws have not reduced or resolved the noise problem

Since the introduction of these laws there has been an increase in the number of trail bikes using private property in our area and using public roads on unlicensed motorbikes. The noise level also seems to be an essential part of the riders enjoyment.

Asking police to come and listen to the noise in our area is not viable as the events mostly occur when our police station is closed.

'First noise complaint' stop noise for 48 hours (S58 & 582 ) surely is indicating that it is okay to make the noise but only do it every 48 hours.

Current laws give no indication as to the size of property that a trail bike can be used on, nor the number of bikes that can be used on a private property. Some restrictions must be made in relation to residential and rural residential areas.

There is a misconception re noise levels on acreage. An acreage of 1.5 to 5 is not enough to allow trail bikes, and in areas such as ours, where the topography amplifies noise, trail bikes can be heard 100 acres away.

### Whether the laws have affected riders enjoying their sport

If the number of bikes in our area is any indication then laws have not affected them at all.

Riders can enjoy their sport in designated off road parks. The Lockyer area has Black Duck Off Road Park that caters especially for trail bikes and other vehicles, yet many riders seem to prefer riding around on small properties unconcerned about noise pollution for the neighborhood, and disregard for laws.

### How off-road motorbike issues are managed in local communities

At present many trail bikes run regularly both on local properties, and illegally on public roads, particularly after school hours and weekends. Sometimes they are accompanied by parents or other adults. Nothing has been done despite complaints made - the local police station is unmanned at weekends and after 5.30pm when trail bikes are often used.

On one occasion our council advised that a letter of complaint was sent by them to a repeat offender, then followed up with a visit which achieved nothing. Police then visited the property and witnessed the offender riding but accepted the grandparents explanation that he visited once or twice a year and only rode for 20 minutes. He actually lived there permanently with his grandparents, attended the local school and rode his trail bike after school and all weekends, on occasions from 5.45am, yet the police did not investigate further.

### Suggestions

An acoustic environmental impact study should be done in areas with topography that amplifies noise levels. Motorcycle noise can be heard quite clearly from over 100 acres away in undulating hills and valley areas such as ours.

There must be restrictions placed on Residential and Rural Residential area properties.

Off road bikes should meet noise level requirements and owners of bikes be required to obtain a noise roadworthy certificate. There are many motorbikes that don't offend with noise pollution.

Real estate agents should be discouraged from advertising small acreage properties as 'great for trail bikes'.

Submission 258

11 Aug. 2008

Re; Review of off road motorbikes noise laws.

Dear Nadine

I would like to make comment for myself and a few neighbours. I have had many conversations with the neighbours and they talk about their frustratings about the bikes riding on the road and in the parks plus the noise of them. I tell them to ring the police. There reply is "Why bother nothing gets done."

My personal experience is about 2 years ago I went on as we had not much response from the police or the park rangers. It was the neighbours concern that if they had hit one of these bikes that in the main are unregistered, uninsured, no lights riding at night and in a lot of cases unlicensed riders what happens. We supplied our neighbourhood Police beat officer with a lot of photos taken by a neighbour of the bikes riding through the park. About 1 year ago I rang The Police Minister Office. A senior Police Officer came out to our place and meet with some neighbours to see what could be done. He was very helpful and did organized some blitzes which was good for a short time.

I have some concerns about things that I have been told.

- 1) Police cannot book Dirt Bike Riders on Council property.
- 2) Council Rangers Cannot Book Dirt Bike Riders on the street.
- 3) I have been told to video them and follow them to where they live and forward the details. We don't own a video camera.
- 4) Police cannot not persue them as they my fall off their bikes and then they can sue the Police
- 5) I have been told that Dirt Bike Nuisance is about 6 on the list or lower.

You might be able to answer some of these.

I do not want to appear that I am police bashing as I am not as I know they are very under staff and I know the rangers have a big area to cover as well. I have also been told that there are bikes for the police to ride but no police to ride them

I would like to see a special Police Squad designated to ride with the rangers.

It is not only day time problem. It is 24 hour 7 days a week problem.

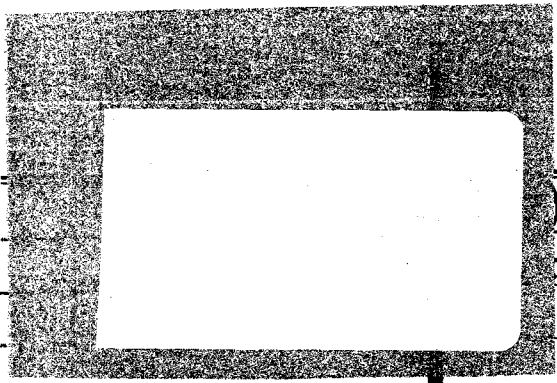
In conclusion I would like to make some comments.

- 1) No tolerance. Bring into line with the Anti Hoon Laws or one better crush them.
- 2) Make parents more responsible
- 3) Fines to be issued to maximum. If they don't pay the fine sell property to cover the fines

I would like to thank you for allowing me this opportunity to put my views across.

I would like my identity to remain confidential thank you.

Your Sincerely



Dear Madine Seifert,

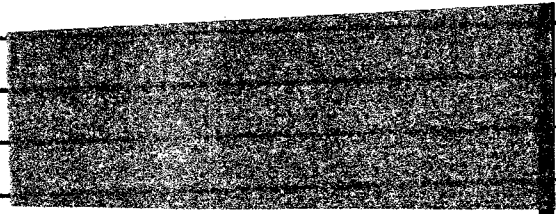
Re. Review of Motor Bike Noise Laws.

We have terrible trouble with extremely loud motor bike riding cum racing by our neighbours and their friends. We have told them it is too loud on two occasions but it has only got worse.

It is detrimental to my husband's health & mine to a lesser degree.

1. I would like to see motor bike riding banned in rural residential areas.
2. If that is not possible - maybe a designated time say once a fortnight so that you could plan to be away until it was over.

Yours faithfully



## Trail Bikes ATT Nadine Seifert

The issue of trail bikes has been on going for more than 10 yrs and in that time nothing has changed for the majority of people in all shire's, the only time some families have had relief is when parcels of scrub land have been developed there fore stopping access to this land and moving them to some where else. We have personally been putting up with this for 5 years, as we have a neighbor who, after we have lived here 3 years made a decision to build his own motor cross track, to practice for competitions now this happens with in 50-60 meters of our back door, now after complaints and police intervention, nothing has changed because this is private property, but only small acreage it is very hard for the police or council to act successfully on these type of inconsiderate people if there is no hard and fast law to guide them by.

Having spoken to some councilors and Mps our only logical solution to this problem is to have an exclusion zone to private residence's of 400-500 meters and no closer in our area. This would give 5 households peace from 1 individual and his mates. The down side of having someone next door with a trail bike or several is this happens every weekend and most afternoons there is no such thing as a B-B-Q in the back yard or any sort of family event. The dust that washes into our tanks from the roof, this is our only source of water,

All we need is an exclusion zone and our way of life would hopefully return to normal. No body wants these people to give up their sport just take the noisy bloody things out bush where they belong. Also we have informed that with this track so close to our home our property is virtually unmarketable, so we should be able to claim compensation from someone.

Also if people complain to the police or council the outcome is incredible stones on our roof, verbal abuse, front lawn ripped up, and this is all on goin. If anyone else wants to participate in their chosen sport they have to travel to a suitable location so why not trail bike rider's as a small acreage is not a Trail. These people are like mice on a wheel just goin around and around and causing annoyance and

PAGE 2/2

dismay to anyone that live in the near location. So the most sensible solution would be an exclusion Zone of 500 meters from the any **PRIVATE RESIDEVCE.**

Just one final thing to put in, is that a trade's man can not work on a Sunday to earn a living, in times when money is short due to rising petrol and groceries, but have to put up with idiot's on bikes for 4-5 hours, and not be able to do anything about it.

**PLEASE DO NOT PUBISH NAME OR ADDRESS**

7. 8. 08

Dear Sir

Reading your notice  
in Toowomba Chronicle  
re Motor Bike noises

Yes we suffer  
off & on with this. Even  
though police are called  
they seem either in favour  
of given them some time  
to ride or dont come  
out at all

Down our Road at  
present

as will be this weekend  
great Motor Bike noise  
comes from half way  
down our street & the  
very bottom on left.

Thombyew

To - NADINE SEIFERT.

7-07-08

This concerns the excessive motorbike noise in and around my neighbourhood. Myself and my wife came out to this area to get away from suburbia's noise. We thought!!! only car and truck noise we had to contend with. Out here nearly every weekend we have to put up with the noise from unsilenced motorbikes.

We are surrounded by 7 bikes that we can count.

1 bike at

1 bike at

1 bike at

1 bike at

3 bikes at

The people at [redacted] have used a bobcat to clear a track around their property. When it rains it washes tons of dirt down into the natural run off water course.

The next day he's out there topping up the track with more soil.

He dug a dam so he has soil to replace the soil washed away by the rain.

The law should state that no motorised vehicle can be used for recreation within 500 mtrs of a dwelling without the other property owners permission.

We suffer from the dust kicked up from the bikes. And so we quite often have to shut the house up because of the dust, or go away for the day because of the noise.