



Chairman's Report

A State election has a remarkable affect on lobbying efforts... effectively putting all efforts on pause as the Government awaits the verdict of the people. Then, when the people speak, as they did so decisively on March 26th this year, we must then wait as the new Government gets themselves sorted out. Allocation of Ministries, staff and budgets can take up to two months and then there is a virtual queue at the door of the various Ministers as lobby organizations make their demands.

So I took the decision to wait. We let the Pedestrians and the Cyclists go in and harass the Minister. Then, the Vice Chair, Simon Disney and myself, made an appointment and gave the Minister a series of wins. No whinging, no whining... just well thought out reasons why things should change and how the changes will result in a win/win situation.

We provided an overview of the MCC, our history, involvement with Government to date, a profile of the NSW rider demographic and the 'reach' of the MCC into the rider demographic.

A discussion ensued about the image of motorcyclists, the 'car-centric' nature of the RTA and urban planners. The Minister expressed a positive view of motorcyclists in general and both he and his media advisor hold motorcycle licences, as do several of his Parliamentary colleagues.

The Minister expressed an appreciation as to the benefits of motorcycling, both in terms of reducing urban congestion, emissions and to regional tourism and related the benefits that motorcyclists bring to regional economies across the State and in his home town of Crookwell.

The MCC discussed several issues with the Minister:

- Rego labels – The Minister was sympathetic and will seek further information from the Department as to the necessity to display a rego label. It is likely that as number plate recognition technology becomes more widely available to the Police that they could be dispensed with. The Minister agreed that tubular rego holders made sense and will seek clarity as to their compliance and may simply Gazette their approval.
- Street parking for bikes – The MCC outlined several jurisdictions in which footpath parking was allowed and explained the difficulty with current legislation allowing only one bike per ticketed parking space. All bikes using one car space currently get fined. The Minister will look into this, but stated that part of this problem lies with Local Government.
- Tolls – The MCC explained that motorcycles have traditionally only been charged a quarter of the car toll. RTA tolls should be the first to be reduced. The Minister will instruct Treasury to calculate cost to consolidated revenue if such a measure is introduced.
- Filtering and advance boxes – The Minister expressed some support for permitting motorcycles to filter through stationary and very slow moving traffic and for a motorcycle stop-box trial.
- Recreational registration – The Minister agreed to look into a recreational registration scheme and took the MCC submission on board for analysis. The Minister appeared to be alive to the possibilities of such a scheme in NSW and will refer the submission to the relevant Departments.
- CTP – The Minister looks forward to receiving the Ernst and Young report into CTP pricing.
- Helmets – The MCC briefed the Minister on helmet laws and regulations. A discussion took place regarding US, Japanese, European and Australian standards and the possibility of legalising foreign approved helmets in NSW.

As you can see, we have some work to do, especially with the proposed legalised trial for filtering. We ask that member consider locations where this could occur. We want one site in the North, South, Northwest, West and Southwest. If this comes off, we must work hard to educate riders on the right way to do this.

Also, in the coming weeks there will be a lot of discussion on the future of the MCC. I have always held the position that there needs to be one body that represents motorcycling in NSW and indeed in the nation. This is where I want us to go and the discussion will be hearty I am sure, but I hope that we can all discuss it maturely and without some of the pettiness that has held us back in the past few months or so.

Future of MCC

Daniel Gatt, the CEO of Motorcycling NSW (MNSW) approached us with a proposal for the merger of MCC and MNSW. MNSW submitted a rough outline of the proposal to last month which was discussed by the Committee. Broadly the proposal is that MCC and MNSW merge with MCC continuing with the work it currently undertakes and MNSW providing the funding and staffing to support MCC's work.

The proposal also includes a permanent position at MNSW for me – proposed position title is Manager MCC. Negotiations are almost finalised and once I sign an employment contract with MNSW, I will be resigning as Chairman of the MCC.

The next step is to decide whether MCC wants to merge with MNSW. I look forward to the discussion.

Rob Colligan
0429303250

UNITED WE RIDE, DIVIDED WE WALK.

Motorcycle Council meetings

The Motorcycle Council of NSW meets on the first Monday of each month at the Ryde Ex-Services Club, 7:30 PM.

Meetings are not just for clubs or delegates. All motorcyclists are invited to attend.

How do you get involved?

MCC membership is open to all clubs, associations and ride groups but not to individuals. Each affiliated club has two delegate seats on the MCC. Membership is free and voluntary.

Motorcycle Council of NSW

PO Box 517
Parramatta CBD BC 2124
Ph: (02) 9615 9605 enquiries@mccofnsw.org.au

Speed Camera Audit

The Audit General is reviewing the use of speed cameras in NSW. He has set up a website where you can nominate sites that you consider he needs to investigate. <http://www.audit.nsw.gov.au/>

Filtering and stop-boxes trial

The Roads Minister has indicated he will support a motorcycle advance stop-box trial.

Trial sites should be situated along main transport routes, and should be on roads suitably designed to allow safe filtering.

Suggestions for trial sites should be sent to enquiries@mccofnsw.org.au

**MOTORCYCLE COUNCIL
OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC.**

