

02-07-2019



**Triathlon Queensland Submission to Parliamentary Committee – Motor Accident and Other Legislation Amendment Bill**

Dear Committee Members,

Triathlon Queensland is the champion for Triathlon in Queensland, which was formed in 1983 as the peak body to foster the growth and development of the sport in our State. We currently have 6000 active members and there are 60000 active participants within triathlons in Queensland each year. Queensland is a rich event space for triathlon and holds over 300 events per year including the second largest triathlon in the world each year.

Triathlon Queensland is grateful to the Economics and Governance Committee for their consideration of this submission regarding the Motor Accident and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019.

Triathlon Queensland understands that the stated policy intent of the Bill is to address practices generally described as 'claims farming'.

The Treasurer, in her speech<sup>(1)</sup>, described claims farming as “...[C]old calling members of the public about whether they have been involved in a motor vehicle accident.” She goes on to say, [H]igh pressured tactics and deceptive behaviours to elicit the individual’s personal information...this information is then sold, for a fee, to a lawyer...”

Triathlon Queensland considers the intent to protect Queenslanders and the CTP scheme as a commendable target.

Each year, some members of Triathlon Queensland are unfortunately injured in accidents due to the fault of others. Each year, we collect information for those injured that point to distracted motorists, aggressive actions toward cyclists or runners, lack of regard for the road rules, and most recently an increase of texting while driving.

Injuries do range from minor to some unfortunate cases of death. Due to the increasing distraction for motorists and often found tension on the roadways, we have embarked on a relationship with a law firm to educate our membership and to provide assistance and advice when these unfortunate events occur.

The relationship has been a critical part of our business over the past three years, seeing members understanding their rights, being appropriately represented and advised, and being generally supported to engage more Queenslanders in a healthy lifestyle sport option given the investment into our organisation.

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/hansard/2019/2019\\_06\\_14\\_DAILY.pdf](https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/hansard/2019/2019_06_14_DAILY.pdf), pg 2119

Triathlon Queensland does see the positive objectives of the Bill in the steps to outlaw 'claims farming,' and to protect the integrity of the CTP scheme, but we feel there may be unintended outcomes if the Bill is passed.

We feel the Bill as currently presented, will remove our ability to develop and maintain corporate relationships and conduct certain activities. We would ask that this be reviewed and repaired for the final proposed legislation.

The current partnerships offer value to our members and their families. We don't believe that the method in which our partnership (with a law firm) is implemented would constitute 'claims farming.'

Should the committee see value in it, I would be more than happy to provide further detail of the partnership, its value to members, and the process in which the assistance is provided to members if required.

Yours sincerely,



Tim Harradine  
Executive Director

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