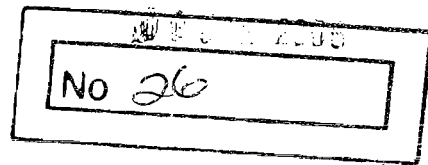


Michael Elliott



January 6 '06

Dr. Lesley Clark M.P.
Unit 7.
Stanton Place,
Captain Cook Hwy.
Smithfield, Qld. 4878.



Dear Dr. Clark,

I heard a report (Jan. 4) on the ABC's 7.45 a.m. news. It concerned the bloodbath on Queensland roads over the Christmas/New Year holidays and a request by the Deputy Premier for the public to give their opinions.

When I did my practical driving test in Victoria some 48 years ago, I was given this advice by the inspector. 'Driving a car is NOT A RIGHT it is a PRIVILEGE placed upon you the driver by the population.' It is advice I have always believed.

Incidentally, my first car was a 1954 Volkswagen and its top speed was just over 65m.p.h (104k.p.h), down hill and I was 18 years old.

Then we used to call the early Holden models 'jet engines in jam tins'. Holden would advertise 0 to 30 in X number of seconds. They were already using speed to indoctrinate drivers into purchasing their cars! The same sales pitch still applies today!

But today a car can accelerate quickly and easily exceed the speed limit yet young teenagers are given the right to drive before they understand how to control a speeding vehicle.

I suggest:

Driving examinations should prove to the general public that the potential driver has a full grasp of the road rules, knows how to control a car at speed and understands how wide a car actually is. Some drive on or next to the centre line of the road because they have no idea of the cars width.

The age for obtaining a driving licence should be raised.



Drivers who have not caused an accident but are caught with a high blood alcohol reading, should be fined, lose their driving licence and have their car impounded, straight away, for a minimum of 6 months.

Drivers who cause an accident, without loss of life or any injury to a third party, should suffer the same penalties as above. Except the fine should be greater and instead of 6 months it should be 12 months.

I strongly believe drivers who kill or injure their fellow members of society, must expect the citizens to demand retribution.

Therefore, drivers with a high blood alcohol reading, where speeding or disobeying road signage and who have an accident which kills a third party are convicted of manslaughter.

After all they have disobeyed the Laws of society!

But far too often the general public 'pussy foots' around with potentially new drivers and drivers in general because people consider it their RIGHT to drive!

Some of my other thoughts are:

Some drivers are so thoughtless and bad I sometimes wonder who taught them to drive and how difficult the actual driving test was.

The loss of a driving licence, itself, causes no problems. I have heard of an offender, here in Cairns, losing their licence, walking out of Court, jumping in their car and driving away!

In this day and age it is useless having a fine of X number of dollars when the cost bears no relationship to today's wages. What hardship does the offender suffer when the fine amounts to only a few hours of their labour!

Likewise X number of demerit points causes no hardship whatever to the offender. No conviction was recorded. In any case who sees the licence anyway!

Drivers park in designated 'no parking zones' and in 'disabled parking zones'. I am disabled (I hold a disabled permit) and use these areas whenever I can. The number of cars, which park in these zones and not display the authorised sign, surprises me. Often I am compelled to park elsewhere and walk!

People are selfish and do not care!

The permitted decibel level, for a car built after 1982, is 90dB. See 'Vehicle Standards and Safety Regulations 1999'.

How many drivers have been caught driving vehicles with much louder exhausts than this? I would suspect very few.

It is illegal to dump rubbish on Crown Land yet people do.

Therefore it is hopeless the State or Local Government bringing in stiffer penalties simply because there is no one around to police the Law!

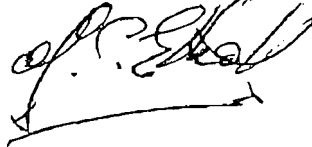
That is the crunch of the matter – no policing!

If a Law is made it must be up held and the only way of doing that is for it to be policed. Otherwise why make the Law in the first place!

Some people laugh at the police, call them stupid and have total disregard for the Laws society imposes. 'The dim-witted johns caught me drink driving!' Today the chances of being caught are so remote because there are not enough police visible.

I enclose a copy of a letter I wrote on December 30 '05 to the Deputy Commissioner of Police, here in Cairns on this very subject.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Clark', with a horizontal line underneath.