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**TRAVELSAFE
COMMITTEE**

Mr Jim Pearce
Chair
Travelsafe Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

21 January 2008

Dear Mr Pearce

Thank you for your 31 October letter to our President, Mr John Mulcahy. The President has requested I respond on his behalf.

Travelsafe Queensland – Automatic Number Plate Recognition ANPR Systems

The Insurance Council of Australia Limited¹ appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on matters raised in the Travelsafe Committee Issues Paper No. 12, Inquiry into Automatic Number Plate Recognition Technology, October 2007.

Assisting in the Reduction of Motor Vehicle Theft

The Insurance Council is aware that this technology has been under development for a number of years and that the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council (NMVTRC) is currently sponsoring practical trials by the New South Wales and Victorian police services. The Insurance Council has reviewed and firmly supports the NMVTRC's submission to the Travelsafe Committee.

The Insurance Council is keenly awaiting the outcome of the NMVTRC trials; this will provide an assessment of the effectiveness of this technology from a practical policing and crime prevention perspective.

¹ The Insurance Council of Australia is the representative body of the general insurance industry in Australia. Our members represent more than 90 percent of total premium income written by private sector general insurers. Insurance Council members, both insurers and reinsurers, are a significant part of the financial services system. 2007 Australian Prudential Regulation Authority statistics show that the private sector insurance industry generates gross premium revenue of \$28.9 billion per annum and has assets of \$83.6 billion. The industry employs approx 60,000 people and on average pays out about \$70 million in claims each working day.

Insurance Council members provide insurance products ranging from those usually purchased by individuals (such as home and contents insurance, travel insurance, motor vehicle insurance) to those purchased by small businesses and larger organisations (such as product and public liability insurance, professional indemnity insurance, commercial property, and directors and officers insurance).

Improved Road Safety by Removal of Unregistered Vehicles from the Roads

The Insurance Council sees number plate recognition systems as a means to improve road safety by assisting in the deterrence, detection and removal of unregistered vehicles from the Queensland roads. These vehicles may not have any form of property damage insurance should they be involved in an accident with another vehicle or fixed property. Generally, these vehicles by being unregistered also have no compulsory third party insurance against any bodily injury they may cause².

Should you wish to discuss these matters further please make contact with Karl Sullivan General Manager Policy- Risk & Disaster Planning Directorate
ksullivan@insurancecouncil.com.au.

Yours sincerely,

Kerrie Kelly
Executive Director & CEO

² An indication of the numbers of unregistered vehicles on Queensland roads may be obtained from the number of unregistered vehicles detected by speed cameras. This remains at between 1.4% and 1.6% of vehicles (ABS Survey of Vehicle Use- an investigation into coherence 9208.0.55.005). The ABS Motor Vehicle Census 31 March 2007 states that there are a total of 3,033,417 registered motor vehicles on the Queensland register. This means there may be at least 49,000 and possibly in excess of 59,000 unregistered vehicles on Queensland roads.