

15 January 2008

TRAVELSAFE COMMITTEE

Parliament House

George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

RECEIVED

30 JAN 2008

TRAVELSAFE
COMMITTEE

Dear Travelsafe Committee,

I do thank you for forwarding me a copy of **Inquiry into Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) Technology**. I have read the paper and would like to offer the following submission.

This paper came in the mail with report number 47 **Report on the inquiry into Q-Ride**. I thought at first these two papers might be in some way linked to the concern over the amount of motorcyclists being injured or killed, but now I think only the Q-Ride paper is linked.

I am fully supportive of motorcycles being able to be recognised when the rider commits a breach of the law; the same as a car driver would be detected committing a similar offence in a car. The fact that a motorcycle has no front number plate means that the use of **ANPR** will not see more motorcycles being detected for infringements than there is now, because this technology will not solve the problem (not that I believe there is one) of detecting motorcycles from the front view.

I thought this discussion was originally about how to detect motorcycles for basic speed and red light camera infringements, which would result in riders being more likely to obey current laws. Now, it turns out it is about a very wide range of reasons for detecting vehicles.

As a rider for my entire licensed life, I am fully aware to this day that we as motorcyclists are not treated equally by the police force. In the 1970's I was the victim of random licence, registration, breath testing and vehicle roadworthiness checks only to discover the only vehicles pulled over at random were motorcycles. In late 2007, I attended a motorcycle show, simply to find all motorcycle riders attending were subject to the same checks that I have been subjected to repeatedly for all the years in between. I do not see this occurring at football games, outside libraries, schools or when entering parliament house. Maybe I'm not as good a citizen as the people in these groups, after all I do ride a motorcycle.

You would understand that I am concerned that my vehicle could be monitored for reasons other than common traffic offences. I am aware that governments are currently monitoring outlaw groups, it is also known that most of the bike shows and events are organised by these aforementioned groups, with much of the proceeds from these events going to local charities. I in no way support any criminal activity or supposed criminal activity but I do attend many of their publicly advertised events. I do not want my integrity or that of my family taken into question just

~~because~~ I like to attend these events. I also don't want **Crimtrac** or any other technology following ~~me around~~ everywhere I go. The information **ANPR** technology supplies to authorities appears to have more to do with tracking criminals than saving lives, as stated in the paper it can be used by police *"...to track people of interest..."*.

It appears my rights as a citizen are greatly compromised by these technologies and I might soon find myself living in a **police state** that Joh Bjelke-Petersen could never have imagined and that Adolf Hitler could only have dreamed of. Freedoms that we have as Australian citizens should not be under minded or appear to be under minded or even be put into a position to be under minded. It would be a very sad day indeed if the Labor Party was to be responsible for eroding our civil rights. With a DNA database for our motor vehicles, you won't need to test it citizens or is this the next topic for discussion?

This technology has no limits, once introduced it would be foreseeable that a new use could be dreamed up daily and as programs are invented you would be able to pop up a map of my whole day's travel at the push of a button, paying careful note as to how long I spent at my mate's house and absolutely no notice of how long I wasted at traffic lights and traffic jams. There is no doubt in my mind that this technology will be implemented sooner rather than later.

The issues for me is whether it can be fully funded without taking the money out of the motorists pockets, successfully operated without invading civil liberties of the population or whether it will stop deaths on our roads and I don't think it will. This is just a grab for cash by a greedy government and the opportunity to spy on its' citizens. Our taxpayer money would be better spent on buying the police force a helicopter. A helicopter would better help to fight crime and would be less intrusive into our private lives.

This way government can keep an eye on all minority groups likely to cause trouble, such as L or P plate drivers, motorcyclists, trucks, suspected terrorists, Labor Party members and the like, all in the name of safety. On the bright side, I could take a holiday and if I forget my camera I could download my happy snaps from the government website.

Yours Sincerely,

Rodney Blacklock