

# DUCATI

## OWNERS CLUB OF QLD Inc.

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27 November 2019

By email: [tpwc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:tpwc@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Committee Secretary  
Transport and Public Works Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Committee Secretary,

### **Submission to the Motor Recreational Activities Inquiry**

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Queensland Parliamentary motor recreational activities inquiry (Inquiry).

Our comments relate primarily to the following areas of consideration:

- a) The economic impact of the motor recreation industry to Queensland, including opportunities to grow the industry to create jobs for Queenslanders; and
- b) The contribution of the industry to Queensland's tourism sector and opportunities to grow Queensland's share of the motor recreation tourism market.

The Ducati Owners Club of Queensland Inc (DOCQ) is a marque specific motorcycling club with a long and illustrious history commencing in 1977. DOCQ celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2017. DOCQ has some 350 paid up members and is the premier Ducati club in Queensland. Our members share a passion for this iconic Italian motorcycle brand.

Members enjoy a rich social network with other Ducati enthusiasts at various activities such as our popular day rides, breakfast rides, night rides for dinner or coffee and a relaxed chat, monthly meetings, track days, two and three day rides, bike shows and official Ducati events. We embrace machines from historical bevels and singles though to the latest hi-tech masterpieces. DOCQ runs a variety of other events to cater for all interests and ages. The club is first and foremost a riding club for Ducatis of all years.

DOCQ is a part of the international Desmo Owners Club network of Ducati clubs, affiliated with Ducati SpA. DOCQ is also affiliated with Motorcycling Queensland (which in turn is part of Motorcycling Australia – the peak body for motorcycling in Australia) providing the

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**PO BOX 302, NUNDAH, QLD 4012**

club with insurance coverage and giving members access to competition and officials' licences.

DOCQ is an incorporated association under Queensland incorporated associations legislation with a constitution and elected management committee. The objects of the Association are:-

*(1) To promote a common passion for Ducati motorcycles and motorcycling having regard to the culture, history and nature of Ducati and its motorcycles;*

*(2) To promote friendship and courtesy on the road, socially and in competition, amongst motorcycle owners generally, and Ducati owners in particular throughout Australia;*

*(3) To promote social activities within the Association and between motorcycle clubs in general, and by means of barbecues, outdoor meetings, motor sports, social meetings, group rides and other functions;*

*(4) To conduct meetings and activities whereby members may obtain knowledge enabling them to maintain their machine at a high level of efficiency;*

*(5) To promote and encourage in every way possible the cause of road safety and accident prevention;*

*(6) To recognise Motorcycling Queensland as an affiliate organization and the state controlling body for motorcycle sport in Queensland.*

The majority of DOCQ members are mature aged people in their 40s and above with a number of founding members still active in the club. We have active members still riding their bikes well into their 70s and even 80s. Many members own more than one machine and ride regularly. The majority of members are male although there is an increasing female presence in the membership. The majority of DOCQ members are highly experienced riders.

DOCQ makes a significant contribution to local and regional economies through its activities. We provide the following list of activities by way of example:

1. A monthly club ride (attended usually by up to 30 riders) with lunch in the country. This year we have visited places as diverse as Cooloola, Kin Kin, Boonah, Rathdowney, Toowoomba and the Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast hinterlands.
2. Regular social events involving brunch or a dinner in the Brisbane area.
3. An annual Ducati only track day at Morgan Park in Warwick (attended by some 70 riders) with many people staying in Warwick overnight and dining for dinner and breakfast.
4. An annual brunch ride to Esk focusing on a particular Ducati model or series. For instance this year, we celebrated the history of Ducati 4 valve motorbikes and brunch at Julies at the Rectory Esk and the event was attended by some 70 riders and guests. As with several events, the ride started from a café in Samford where riders had breakfast and/or coffee before starting the ride.

5. An annual Womens Ride with a lunch stop. For instance, this year a group of ladies rode to Crows Nest for lunch.
6. An annual "Bevel Brekkie Ride" to Mt Mee for brunch attended by over 50 riders.
7. This year, DOCQ held a 3 day Turismo event through the Burnett region in early September which was attended by more than 35 riders and pillions. The event commenced with breakfast at a café in Samford, morning tea at Maleny, lunch in Gympie, an afternoon stop in Biggenden and accommodation and meals on the first night in Gin Gin. On the Saturday, the ride made its way to Mundubbera for morning tea, Boondooma Homestead for lunch and stayed in Kingaroy with meals on the Saturday night. On Sunday, we rode to the Bunya Mountains for breakfast followed by morning tea at Gary McCoy's Cooyar café before returning home. This event was also held in 2017 and the intention is to hold a similar event every few years.
8. In August of each year, a group of DOCQ members hosts a week long event, the "Moto Giro", which focusses on smaller capacity Italian motorcycles manufactured before 1977. There is a cap of 40 riders who attend from around Australia. The riders spend a week circulating around the countryside in the Boonah and Woodford areas with numerous stops.

The above is not an exhaustive list of events conducted by DOCQ. It hopefully serves to illustrate however that DOCQ members make a significant contribution to regional economies.

Speaking more generally, it is necessary only to have a look at the number of motorcyclists on any weekend at cafes around Mt Nebo and Mt Glorious, Mt Mee, Samford, the Sunshine coast and Gold Coast hinterlands to see the contribution they make to the economy. There can be little doubt that motorcycling encourages camaraderie, friendship and adventure when considered in its many forms such as weekend rides, off-roading, track days etc. Every weekend thousands of riders pour out of the city to visit, explore and meet up with each other. These activities bring together men and women of various ages and nationalities in a spirit of friendly companionship. The therapeutic value of these simple activities should not be underestimated.

We also note that there are dozens of specialist motorcycle stores around Brisbane and S.E. Queensland supplying all manner of goods from motorcycles, accessories and tyres to rider training and motorcycle tours. These outlets provides hundreds of skilled and semi-skilled employment opportunities in the area and make a valuable contribution to the local economy.

Finally, we note that motorcycles provide a very effective commuting strategy that reduces both congestion and air pollution. Although hundreds of people choose to commute daily by motorcycle there is a dearth of motorcycle parking spaces in the Brisbane CBD with all available spaces being taken by approximately 7.45am. Rolling out more parking spaces for motorcycles would greatly encourage the use of this very effective mode of commuting.



There are no other relevant issues that DOCQ raises at this time. However, we welcome the opportunity for continued consultation in the future. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries regarding the contents of this submission.

Yours faithfully



Rob Stevenson

President

Email: [president@docq.com.au](mailto:president@docq.com.au)

