



Triumph Sports Owners Association (Queensland) INC.

1376 Old Cleveland Road
Carindale. Qld. 4152

Submission to Transport and Public Works Committee on the contribution of motor recreational activities to Queensland

Dear Sirs

We would make the following comments on your request for submissions on the impact of the classic car clubs on the Queensland economy.

1. TSOAQ has around 160 members who have approximately 250 registered vehicles that are on either full registration or under the SIVS scheme that obviously generates revenue for the Government.
 - a. These vehicles would be between 30 and 60 years old and require regular maintenance and repairs. Whilst some owners are capable of their own maintenance, others rely upon specialist automotive mechanics familiar with older vehicles to keep their cars in top mechanical condition. These charges together with purchase of parts and fluids would all add to the local economy.
 - b. Many parts for classic cars have to be imported from overseas as there are few manufacturers in Australia who make replacement components locally. Now overseas suppliers charge GST on these parts, which add to the Governments overall tax take.
 - c. The club organises two drives for members each month, usually with between 15 and 40 people participating. The normal format is the start in the morning with a drive through some of the local minor roads and arrive at a pre-arranged venue for lunch, usually in rural town or locality where the car club visitors add to the local economy with purchases of food and other items.
2. In 1975 TSOAQ organised a car show at a park in Maclean's Bridge, which became an annual event and has been held in May each subsequent year.

Since 2016, when TSOAQ entered into an arrangement with the management of the Queensland Rifle Association, Mac's Bridge has been held at the Belmont shooting complex. The benefits for the club include sufficient space to accommodate more than 1000 display vehicles plentiful visitor parking and shade from the trees adjacent to the range. There is space for our food vendors and many trade displays who support the event and show their range of products. We are just one organisation that have no involvement in shooting related sports that find this venue ideal and easily accessed from other parts of Brisbane.

Interest in classic and historic vehicles is an activity that involves entire families and it is quite common for owners who are displaying more than one vehicle have their spouse, son or daughter driving other vehicles to the show. It is a normal occurrence to see families and groups bringing along picnics and sitting round enjoying food with pleasant conversation in the shade.

All types of classic cars irrespective of age, make or country of manufacture are welcome at Mac's Bridge, since moving to Belmont we usually get more than 400 display vehicles, with a similar number of vehicles in the visitor car park. The proceeds of the show are donated to charity, our chosen charity for the past few years has been Orange Sky, and prior to that it was the Prostate Foundation.

TSOAQ believe that by organising a display like Mac's Bridge maintains a strong presence for older vehicles in a rapidly changing society brings social as well as economic benefits. The cars also provide tangible links to other eras in our national history which will be maintained and extended once current custodians of these vehicles pass them onto the next generation.

3. Every five years Queensland organises a national Triumph Meeting at a local resort. The event will usually attract between 100 and 150 Triumph enthusiasts and takes place over a week. Driving tours are organised for each day to local places of interest with stops for morning and afternoon tea and lunch. Dinner is usually arranged closer to the resort base and

if it is beyond walking distance coach transport is supplied. As a large number of the participants are from interstate many decide to extend their Queensland stay beyond the week of the meeting, thus increasing the tourist dollar to Queensland. It is difficult to calculate the boost to the local tourist economy but is likely to be approaching a quarter million dollars.

4. It is generally not recognised how much of a boost the classic car movement is to the local economy. A 2016 survey in the UK determined that over there the industry was worth well in excess of £5.5 billion, which the survey organisers suggested was well understated as more modern classics were not included.
5. What we see as both a threat and an opportunity to the classic car movement is the required different trade skills to keep the older technology cars running. Owners are already finding it increasingly difficult to locate mechanics who have the required knowledge and skills to overhaul and tune carburettors or non-computerised ignition. It is also difficult to find panel beaters capable of restoring a classic car body where rust metal needs to be cut out and replaced with new handmade panels. There is an opportunity for the government to assist in getting new apprentices into these trades.

TSOAQ see a number of factors as hindrances and threats to our hobby

1. The current focus on emissions and climate change and subsequent suggestions from pressure groups that all old cars should be banned from driving on the roads and turned into static museum pieces.
 - a. It is agreed that the design of classic cars prevents them from meeting modern vehicle emission standards, however the majority of owners keep their cars in good running condition ensuring that the emissions are to the original manufacturing standards and less than the emissions from later poorly maintained cars in everyday use.
 - b. Classic cars usually only travel a very limited distance per year thus annual emissions per vehicle are very low.
2. The future cost of registration for classic cars is a concern especially for the many enthusiasts that have more than one vehicle. Whilst the current SIVS registration is an assistance other countries such as UK have zero registration costs for vehicles over 40 years old.
3. There are opportunities to increase the classic car economy in Queensland but unfortunately the local councils, educational facilities and government do not provide any encouragement. It is difficult to find a venue to hold a car show, councils are no longer keen to allow parks to be utilised or impose prohibitive restrictions. Similar from educational facilities, TSOAQ have held their annual show at a university campus but found that the charges imposed by the university unfortunately saw the show as a profit generator for them and imposed charges on TSOAQ that were many times more than any costs the university incurred. The result from this university money grab was that TSOAQ made little profit for charity and made a loss one year when bad weather severely reduced attendance.
4. There is an international trend in clubs that no longer operate along the traditional one make lines. A recent survey in the UK by a classic car magazine on the best car club awarded the prize to an informal car club that does not have membership where cars of all makes and age are welcomed and communicates via social media. The club meets on a park adjacent to a pub for a monthly chat and organises local runs. We are perhaps seeing the start of a similar trend in Queensland with the proliferation of "Cars and Coffee" meets which unfortunately have to use the public highway to congregate. Please note, TSOAQ do not include the hooners who meet in industrial areas to perform burn outs in this category. They give the classic car hobby a bad name.
5. In summary, the TSOAQ is all about responsible motoring. Members value their cars and their driver's licence and the obligations that are associated with it. As such, we believe we set an example as a community minded organization and in particular, we aim to be a beneficial influence and behavioural model for young drivers. Because of their wider level of motoring interest we believe that motor club members exhibit a higher level of skill and road safety awareness than the average road user. The TSOAQ is affiliated with the Queensland Motor Heritage Council (QHMC) which provides an avenue for sharing and promoting the values and ideals of responsible recreational motoring which can only be of benefit to Queensland.

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