

Submission to the Motor Recreational Activities inquiry

Good morning Mr Chairman, committee members, my name is Peter Dever, I am a licenced Motor Dealer in Qld, Chairman of the ARD division of the MTAQ and an MTAQ board member . I have been a car enthusiast for the past 50 years.

So the age old question ? What is a Car Enthusiast ? Car Enthusiasts come in all shapes and sizes , young and old, from different cultures, white collar, blue collar but with a common interest and passion for motor vehicles old and new.

Car Enthusiasts are as old as the car itself, but the Hot rod and classic muscle car scene can trace its roots back to hot rodders that began to appear after World War2 . Service men returning to civilian life in America began hotting up old "jalopys" and staging meets and so drag racing was born.

Australia was soon to follow with the hot rodding and drag racing scene becoming a big thing by the 1960's. Drag racing tracks were established around the country and Hot rod shows were promoted as annual events in all Capital cities on the east coast.

Fast forward to more recent times and the car enthusiast is alive and well . Car enthusiast numbers have continued to grow over the last 50 years, with most older makes having a following that results in groups of " like minded" individuals getting together and forming a club or association to foster and encourage interest in that particular marque.

So what does this all mean ?

The vast majority of car enthusiasts are responsible citizens who are take pride in their vehicle and would not use it in a manner to potentially put it in harm's way either on or off the road.

Car enthusiasts also spend lots of money . Vehicle restorations , re painting, re trimming and mechanical repairs are all part of being a car enthusiast. Local business's are the direct beneficiaries of this spending and it is hard to walk into a workshop in SE Qld and not see someone's project car in getting worked on.

The car community contributes a significant amount of money each and every year to the Qld economy directly and indirectly through this common interest and the Qld economy is the beneficiary.

The car community also plays a role in Qld in helping to raise money for charities and people in need through out the state. Over the past 5 years there has been a explosion of "Cars n Coffee" events in the Brisbane Metropolitan area. One example of this occurs on a Sunday morning 4 times a year.

The Motor Trades Association (MTAQ) stages a quarterly 'cars n coffee' event on a Sunday morning with sausage sizzle proceeds going to Youngcare.

Other events are held on a regular basis through out Qld, one of the longest running events is staged each and every Friday night in Acacia Ridge on Brisbane's southside. Affectionately known as "Munchies" , this event has been running for more than 15 years in the car park of the IGA shopping centre at Elizabeth street Acacia Ridge. This event is a perfect example of like minded individuals coming together through a common interest, the event is not controlled or managed by any individual(s) , it simply happens as the car community gathers there for a few hours on a Friday night to swap stories, catch up on recent happenings and of course display their vehicle for the crowds that come to view the car park full of classics. This event injects much need cash into the local

community, with food outlets in the Acacia Ridge shopping centre struggling to cope on some evenings, with the sheer volume of customers, all wanting to spend cash in their business.

This “event” also plays a significant role with the senior members of the community who are car enthusiasts. These seniors long since retired attend regularly and it is easy to see that they rely on the fellowship and friendship of fellow car enthusiasts . One individual is about to turn 80 years old and would not miss a Friday night even whilst receiving cancer treatments. The mental health of this group of elderly enthusiasts is bolstered by fellow enthusiasts who ensure their well- being.

This weekly event has its own face book page with 12439 followers sharing photos etc of weekly happenings.

Again local community benefits are as follows:

1. Shopping centre traders receive a weekly boost in trade
2. Local workshops working on restoring and maintaining classic vehicles
3. Educational benefits to the community thru mechanical apprenticeships
4. Preserving our motoring history for future generations

Possible improvements to consider:

Restricted or “club” registration scheme could be reviewed with the age of the vehicle reduced to 25 years old instead of the current 30 years, which would allow more vehicles out of storage and on to the roads for events. A logbook scheme introduced in other states , may also provide more flexibility in vehicle usage.

Summary

The Car Enthusiast community in Qld contributes to the economy in Qld both directly and indirectly. Through the staging of regular events , the car community will continue to encourage people to visit Qld for events putting tourism \$ into the local economy. The car community stands ready to assist the Qld Government thru consultation, to assist the Government to identify opportunities to grow and enhance the car community for the benefit of all Qld.

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