

**Att: Committee Secretary**

**Transport and Public Works Committee**

**Parliament House**

**George Street**

**Brisbane**

**INQUIRY INTO MOTOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Submission to: **Transport and Public Works Committee,  
Qld Parliament**

From: Vintage Chevrolet Association of Queensland  
Email: [REDACTED]  
Phone: [REDACTED]  
Date: 5th December, 2019

Subject: **INQUIRY INTO MOTOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The following is submitted from the perspective of the owners of Historic Vehicles and in particular the Vintage Chevrolet Association of Queensland and its members.

Formed in 1969, the VCAQ is dedicated to the preservation & restoration of authentic Chevrolet vehicles more than 30 years of age. With approximately 100 current members, we participate in runs and events throughout Qld and on occasion, interstate.

The wealth of knowledge of our members has assisted many restorations of Chevrolets over 50 years, both in Qld and Australia, helping to keep our history on the road.

This submission addresses the terms of reference of the inquiry in relation to Historic Vehicles and is summarised at the end of the document.

### a.) **Economic Impact**

1) The many incorporated 'car clubs' registered in Qld play an important part of the economy of Qld with tens of thousands of members spread throughout the state.

Club events bring members together from within individual clubs as well as members from other vehicle clubs and the general public. Many events are held

outside of SEQ, with Club members visiting regional and drought ravaged areas , bringing much needed funds and friendship into various towns & cities throughout Qld.

The VCAQ (Vintage Chevrolet Association of Qld) recently held their 50th Anniversary run, based at Gatton. The week long event across the Lockyer Valley was attended by 180 club participants, including many interstate and overseas members. It was estimated that the Lockyer Valley benefitted financially to the tune of more than \$200,000 during this event. A similar week long event has been held every 5 years over the past 40 years by this club alone, injecting funds into different regions each time the event is held.

During October of 2019, a Veteran Car event held in the Bundaberg region, attracted participants from around Australia and overseas. Over 6,000 people attended the 'picnic in the park' and around 9000 people watched the Twilight Parade of vehicles. The Bundaberg Council estimates a figure of well over \$500,000 was brought to the region during the event.

These larger events are in addition to the weekly and monthly runs that the numerous registered car clubs throughout Qld participate in, heading out to various venues for 1 day or weekend runs, again injecting funds into their local economy through purchasing food, accommodation and services in the areas they visit.

Historic Vehicle Club members often attend or organise 'charity events' each year, at which, members pay to 'show' their vehicles and the general public 'pay' to 'see' the vehicles on display, yet another injection of funds into the community.

a ii) The owners of Historic vehicles in Qld invest a vast amount of money restoring and upgrading their vehicles. Where possible this money is spent within Qld utilising a variety of tradespeople in the process with such skills as paint and panel work, mechanical/engine rebuilding, upholstery, tyre fitting, instrument refurbishment and electroplating . Consequently Historic vehicle owners are contributing to & helping sustain a number of different industries and trades within our State. However a general lack of younger trades people learning these skills in Qld, is now becoming apparent.

The Qld Govt can assist in facilitating apprenticeship schemes in the trades (some of which are mentioned above), through TAFE or other training colleges which would stop the export of many vehicles to other states for repair/ and restoration work due to lack of available skilled workers being trained here in Qld.

**b) Contribution to Motor Recreation Tourism Market**

- i) Historic motoring clubs contribute to the Tourism market by arranging meets and events throughout Qld cities and regional towns. These may range from one day events to longer stays in a particular area but none the less, injecting funds into local communities and garnering the interest of the public by their visit.
- ii) Should funding become available through govt sources such as other sporting events receive (cricket, rugby, boxing etc) , Historic vehicle clubs would no doubt be happy to be part of major events that would entice the interested public in Qld, as well as tourists from interstate and overseas, to attend such events.

**c. Reform of Legislative, Regulatory and Policy Framework**

- i) Assistance by the Qld govt to reduce registration and abolish stamp duty on Historic Vehicles 30 years of age and over would bring our regulations inline with other Australian states and see a greater number of Historic Vehicles being driven and appreciated within Qld.

When the governments of Victoria and NSW did this in recent years, thousands of vehicles were restored and refurbished, encouraging employment of allied trades people throughout these two states.

Victoria and NSW recognised the financial benefit their communities would enjoy by reducing these costs but unfortunately Qld is yet to follow their lead.



England and New Zealand have now recognised the benefits of having Historic Vehicles on the roads and both countries have implemented legislation resulting in nil registration costs for Historic vehicles.

Reducing registration and abolishing stamp duty on historic vehicles 30 years of age & over in Qld would allow Queenslanders to purchase vehicles from overseas or interstate to be refurbished or maintained here in Qld , again supporting the above mentioned trades and industries. At present, many vehicles are instead being sold to interstate/ overseas buyers and leave Qld because of the prohibitive stamp duty costs when purchasing and registering the Historic vehicles in Qld.

ii.) The recent 'Impromptu Event Scheme' approved by the Department of Transport and Main Roads, which is similar to that introduced in Western Australia, has to date had a huge positive impact for the members of VCAQ. This scheme alleviates the need for log books and the associated paperwork and auditing of same. We congratulate the DTMR for their ability to implement such a 'user friendly' scheme and ask that they better advertise the availability of the scheme to all SIVs clubs throughout Qld .

iii.) The system of personalised plates should be retained, including the use of the original historic Q plates. Many of our members currently display these on their vehicles.

#### **d. Safety of Industry Participants**

Within the Historic Vehicle Clubs, safety of vehicles , passengers and general public is always a priority.

Our vehicles are regularly inspected and maintained generally to a high degree, the drivers are briefed on safety issues before events, i.e. road conditions, speed limits, parking etc. & especially so at those events where members of the public will be in attendance . These types of events are always well supervised and adhere to Qld standards of work place health & safety.

Many owners of Historic Vehicles tend to transport their vehicles by trailer to particular events where they feel driving the vehicle is not appropriate.

e. **Impact on Youth Training and Community Engagement**

i.) We have seen the demise of the Motor Vehicle Manufacturing in Australia, and with it allied trades and apprenticeships have suffered. However as previously mentioned there is still a need for these important trades to be encouraged and ongoing training with **government incentives** for youths to complete trades in these much needed skills should be urgently considered. There is a lack of skilled motor trade workers for Historic vehicles and consequently such vehicles are being sent out of the state for restoration, **providing job opportunities outside Queensland. This needs to be addressed so that job opportunities remain within our State.**

ii.) The numerous Historic Vehicle clubs and their members have always supported and engaged the community through various charity events and vehicle displays volunteering time and helping with fundraising for numerous causes.

iii.) Many owner/drivers of these Historic Vehicles are mature members of our communities. The Historic car movement has a huge following and provides camaraderie, a great sense of purpose for many retired members as well as providing a wealth of knowledge to younger generations taking an interest in vehicles in general. In the throw away society of today, showing younger generations care and maintenance of these Historic Vehicles, provides important lessons within our culture.

g.) **Challenges and Role of government in creating jobs for Queenslanders**

i.) Further to the points above, our Qld government needs to encourage training of trade skills, simplify the process of administrating such programs (cut back on the wastage of 'over administration' costs) and realise that this area of Motor

Recreational activity can have an impact in creating jobs if given the correct support.

ii.) Govt assistance to promote businesses in Qld that manufacture old/spare parts for Historic Vehicles is another idea to consider. There is a world wide market for these parts and as more heritage vehicles appear on the roads here and overseas, the demand will increase.

### **Summary**

We have detailed under the terms of reference the important **financial, social & cultural benefits and impact that Historic Vehicles provide within Qld.**

One of the biggest problems facing the Historic Vehicle Clubs & members is the huge amount that **Qld** government demands we pay **for stamp duty and vehicle registration of Historic vehicles.**

It is disappointing to spend many years restoring a vehicle and then find when initially registering the vehicle, that **stamp duty is payable on the value of the newly restored vehicle,** in some cases **6% of the total value.**

In addition owners have the **financial burden** of Qld Historic Vehicle registration, (SIVs) which is almost **5 times higher than that charged for Historic vehicles in NSW.**

Alleviating these financial obstacles would **align Queensland with Victoria and NSW** & definitely draw a greater number of Historic vehicles onto Qld roads. This in turn would provide **financial benefit to businesses** such as mechanical engineering, upholsterers ,paint and panel trades, tyre fitting, glazing, timber work (to name a few) as well as **increasing the requirement for apprentices** for these trades.

**More Historic Vehicies on Qld roads,** would also **financially benefit both city and regional areas** visited by the numerous individual clubs, resulting in a greater **injection of funds into communities** through the use of **fuel, accommodation, food & services and visiting tourist destinations.**



It is also important to encourage the restoration and use of Historic Vehicles from an **historic & heritage** perspective.

It is unfortunate that the invitation for submissions to this inquiry has not be widely advertised or received by many of the Qld car clubs, who will therefore not have the opportunity to respond before December 13th 2019. Perhaps an extension of the submission date can be considered.

Thanking the committee for the opportunity to submit this information & suggestions in regard to your terms of reference, we look forward to a positive outcome for Queenslanders.

Sincerely,



Craig Williams (Vice President)

On behalf of the Vintage Chevrolet Association Qld.