



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

### **Background**

Karting Australia is recognised by the Confederation of Australian Motor Sports (CAMS) as the peak body for the sport of Karting in Australia. As the State body affiliated with Karting Australia, Karting Queensland is the peak body for the sport of Karting in Queensland.

While it is recognised by CAMS as the peak Association, it is not the only body conducting karting activities in Queensland.

### **The economic impact of the motor recreation industry to Queensland, including opportunities to grow the industry to create jobs for Queenslanders**

The Karting community is a mobile community. The State is split into 3 zones being Southern, Central and Northern. Within each zone participants will often travel between clubs to race usually spending at least one or 2 nights away from home.

As well as club meetings there are Zonal and State events. A state event will typically run over 3 days with participants arriving on the Thursday and leaving on the Sunday. In 2019 the two rounds of the State Championship saw about 130 drivers attend Proserpine and Gympie. With about half of those drivers being under 18, attendances at the events were in excess of 250 people.

As well as the State rounds, there were 5 National events conducted in 2019. 2 Rounds in Ipswich and one each in Warwick, Emerald and Gold Coast. These events combined saw in excess of 1100 drivers travelling from around the State and country to participate.

The Highlands Regional Council (Emerald) estimated that in 2017 the round of the National Kart Championships resulted in over \$8000,000 being injected into the community through Accommodation and restaurant sales.

From an indirect opportunities events conducted around the State can contribute to local industry and support local communities.

Karting Australia relies on volunteer officials to conduct race meetings. There is little to no direct opportunities for the Karting community to create jobs in Queensland.

### **The contribution of the industry to Queensland's tourism sector and opportunities to grow Queensland's share of the motor recreation tourism market;**

It is difficult to gauge the impact on the tourism industry. In 2019 the Queensland State Championships were conducted at Proserpine during the June/July school holiday period.

Drivers were able to practice at the track on the first weekend of the holidays and then competition was conducted on the second weekend. Anecdotally, there were several families who took the opportunity to stay in the Whitsunday area for the school holidays.

### **The legislative, regulatory and policy framework in which the industry operates in all levels of government, and options for reform;**

The Karting industry is not presently regulated by government with the exception of those areas ancillary to events such as food services and workplace, health and safety.

Karting Australia produces a variety of regulations and policies to govern the sport. These include the KA Manual which outlines the rules for competition and policies around the conduct of participants and officials in the sport. The manual and guidelines follow the guiding principles of CAMS and FIA.

### **Options to improve the safety of all industry participants;**

Karting Australia has a system of maintaining safety through the rules and regulations around the sport. These rules are reviewed annually and updated where improvements are identified. In conjunction with the rules, there is a system of licensing tracks which incorporates industry best practice.

While these policies are in place, it is recognised that there is always room for improvements. Clubs regularly apply for grant funding to upgrade facilities and Karting Australia has a system of internal grants for track and safety improvements.

Other parties in the competitive motorsport industry have similar systems and practices in place.

### **The impact of the industry on road safety outcomes;**

Karting is often described as the birthplace of driving champions. Many of the names recognised nationally and internationally in motorsports started in karting. As well as the success stories, karting also provides a safe environment for the development of driving skills that can be transferred to road safety.

Many of the skills needed to drive a motor vehicle are taught through racing, with children able to start in karting from 6 years of age. Up to 10 years of driving skills in a safe and controlled environment before getting into a motor vehicle can only help in road safety.

As well as the developmental areas, motorsports can provide an outlet for teens and adults who want to experience the thrills of driving fast. Racing on a motorsport facility with other like minded people provides the thrills without the risks associated with uncontrolled environments.

### **Challenges facing the industry and the role of government in supporting the industry to continue creating jobs for Queenslanders;**

Like many other facilities around the State, karting is suffering from urban encroachment on facilities. In some areas, residential developments have occurred along the boundary fences

of kart track and subsequent complaints about noise have reduced the capacity of clubs to conduct events.

The Townsville Kart Club is still facing ongoing litigation from developers who object to the noise levels from the facility, despite the development being started long after the track was developed in an area away from residences. This has cost the club financially over many years in court proceedings as well as loss of income from previous hire activities at the facility.

Should you require any additional or specific questions answered please feel free to contact Annette English, the Karting Queensland administration officer on [REDACTED].