

To the committee members,

In response to your stated aims, we offer the following.

Our club, Central West Queensland 4x4 Inc is based in Emerald Queensland.

We are a member club of 4x4 Queensland, the governing body for our hobby in Queensland. They, in turn, are members of 4x4 Australia.

As such, we are fully insured and regulated as a club. We offer support and advice for beginner four wheel drivers and are looking at offering formal training to all interested parties in the future. We feel this helps promote safety in the community.

Even in our town of approximately 11,000 people, we have three 4wheel drive accessory shops servicing our hobby. These shops employ approximately 15 people full time. Along with this there are several camping shops which also support our hobby, employing approximately 15 full time employees. Our aim is to help promote our sport in a safe and responsible manner.

Our small club spends a considerable amount of time each year touring different areas.

We regularly visit national parks and small towns in our region.

We always try to spend our dollars in the smaller towns and make a good impression. For example, over a weekend in Alpha we spent approximately \$2500 in the town between fuel, dinner at the golf club, lunches and accommodation. We do this sort of activity several times every year.

When we visit state forests or national parks, we try to clean up tracks by clearing fallen timber and rebuilding creek crossings when required.

This is something we would like to be more involved with, however, currently the policy for assisting national parks (adopt a track program) with 4x4 Queensland is both frustrating and unwieldy. It requires an organisation to complete forms several months ahead and nominate numbers etc, then submit the paperwork to head office for approval etc. This does not allow for quick responses to issues such as cyclone response or fires issues and also does not allow local branches of national parks to organise what they require at any given time.

4x4 Queensland are attempting to negotiate a policy for a blanket approval for member clubs (who are fully insured) to work with local offices of parks and easily organise assistance which suits the area.

For example, our local office would love us to drive the fire trails in our local parks and cut fallen timber and clear the trails regularly so they are accessible during emergencies + such as the recent fires); This is something we are insured and trained to do and, in fact, enjoy doing. We just need the red tape removed. We also assisted the Mackay region by repairing and clearing the camp ground at Cathu state Forest after the cyclone. Again, the local parks office worked with us unofficially because it was

impossible to complete the necessary forms and procedures. This should be an easy thing to fix. This would give parks access to the 30,000 members of 4x4 Queensland to assist.

Another issue facing our hobby, regarding legislation, is the fact that national guidelines for vehicle registration were accepted by all states and then modified so we again do not have continuity bid registration. The recent police blitz on four wheel drive vehicles statewide has had a definite negative effect on tourism as many people travel to the islands , the Cape or the outback to enjoy our hobby.

Finally, we believe that tourism could be greatly increased if national parks and state forests had rated four wheel drive tracks included in them. Allow some tracks to become rutted and worn as an attraction to people who enjoy our hobby. Victoria would be a good area to investigate the management of certain areas such as the high country.. Clubs have special access in return for maintaining access and maintaining safety huts in the park. This system works well and the area is a definite tourism draw, injecting much needed funds into the smaller towns tracks are accessed through.

We are always willing to discuss ideas and open to suggestions for areas which we could assist others to access our great country.

Regards

Charles Loch,

President

And Benjamin Chalmers

Secretary

Cwq 4x4 inc.

