

Tow Truck Bill 2023

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Dear Committee Secretary,

The Moreton Bay Regional Towing Association has been operating for over 10 years, representing the majority of licensed operators in the Moreton Bay Region. The Association is group of operators that provide a professional Towing Service within the district of the Moreton Bay which is continually growing. The Businesses are available 24hours to supply service to the Queensland Police Service along with staff that provide integrity honesty and confidentiality when dealing with people in difficult situations they suddenly find themselves in.

These operators include 131Tow, Caboolture City Towing, BAS Towing, Claytons Towing Service, Morayfield Towing, Narangba Towing, Redcliffe Towing, Rudd's Towing & Somerset Towing. The association holds regular meetings in conjunction with the Qld Police Service, it represents over 50 licensed tow trucks and manages the Moreton District Police Towing Roster.

It has been a short period for our members to read the Bill, at this point we would like to raise the following points.

1. Repealed Sections

- a. It has been noted that Section 22 of the Tow Truck Act 1973 (Authority to repair) and Section 23 of the Tow Truck Action 1973 (Consideration for obtaining certain information or work) have been repealed – our membership would like to understand why these sections were removed or will this be added to another section of the regulation. We cannot understand any advantages by taking these sections out and feel this will invoke a negative aspect to the industry and may attract unscrupulous operators.

2. *Part 4 Div 2 Sec 57 Preventing damage to towed motor vehicles*

- a. The members would like some clarity what this section is being aimed at. From an overview we cannot see any benefit to the industry other than adding a greater cost to businesses and operators. If damages occur to a vehicle during a tow or recovery, often when time constraints or difficult conditions involved, opening beyond the normal recourse of dealing with damage costs, to also be possibly fined is not fair or reasonable.

Our association, Moreton Bay Regional Towing Association would very much encourage more consultations. Our concern the low capped fees that are now a part of Private Property regulations be used as a guide for accident towing. This would lead to accident towing and storage of vehicles being unviable like this service (none of our members perform Private Property Tow Aways).

Holding yards cost a lot to own, secure and operate and in our region and these yards are used solely for storage of vehicles on behalf of QPS, insurance company and owners, they cannot be used for any other type of operations. Insurance companies and the police service do not operate their own holding facilities in our region, providing this service under a low capped fee would only flow on to a cost in another direction, being the consumer or even government.

Lastly, we would like to stress the importance of industry consultations prior to implementation of changes. As we can see how discussions and collaboration are vital for sustainability and continuation of the industry and our association is open to any type of discussion or meeting re the towing industry.

Stuart Garside.

Secretary Treasurer

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