

Minister for State Growth  
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport  
Minister for Small Business  
Minister for Science and Technology  
Leader of the House



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Mr Paul Bullock  
President  
Tasmanian Motorcycle Council Inc.  
By email: [lpaulbull@gmail.com](mailto:lpaulbull@gmail.com)

30 OCT 2019

Dear Mr Bullock

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me on 19 September 2019 to discuss important road safety issues for motorcyclists and funding arrangements for the Tasmanian Motorcycle Council (TMC). I enjoyed meeting you and the TMC Vice President, Simon Hrycyszyn. I have now had the opportunity to further consider each of the issues raised, and I am responding accordingly.

#### **Raising the speed limit for novice riders to the same as motor vehicle novice drivers**

Motorcyclists continue to be vulnerable road users and, as you are aware, inexperienced riders are overrepresented in crashes on Tasmanian roads. In 2018, approximately one in every five motorcycle crashes involved a learner or P1 provisional rider.

The Tasmanian Government agrees that there is a tension between novice motorcyclists gaining experience driving at higher speeds and developing the prerequisite skills for safe riding at higher speeds. At this stage we believe we have the balance right between supporting skills development and increasing experience at higher speeds. However, I have passed on the feedback of the TMC to the Department of State Growth for noting when these limits are next reviewed.

#### **MAIB claims and premiums for motorcyclists**

Several items pertaining to the Motor Accident Insurance Board (MAIB) claims were also raised, including TMC's concerns about unlicensed and unknown riders being included in the MAIB claims, a separate pool of money for unlicensed riders, and one pool of money for all claims. I have sought advice from the MAIB in relation to these issues.

I have been advised that in accordance with the *Motor Accidents (Liabilities and Compensation) Act 1973*, scheduled benefits are not payable to motorcyclists that, at the time of a motor accident (and in certain circumstances) did not hold a driver licence of the relevant class or the vehicle was unregistered. I understand the MAIB only accepted a percentage of the claims submitted involving motorcycle accidents in 2018-19 (with reasons for rejecting claims including being unregistered/unlicensed, no Tasmanian vehicle involved and other minor exclusions). Given the way the MAIB currently manages claims for unlicensed drivers, a separate pool of money for unlicensed riders is not considered necessary.

Premiums are subject to independent review by the Tasmanian Economic Regulator (the Regulator). The MAIB is a no-fault scheme with premiums based on a community rating for each class of vehicle rather than driver qualities. This ensures premiums are set at an affordable level for all motor vehicle owners. In assessing the appropriate premiums for each vehicle class, the Regulator assesses the claims experience, including the contribution of each vehicle class involved in accidents. The costs of such claims (excluding recoveries, which reduces the costs), are part of the overall costs for each class of vehicle and are considered by the Regulator in setting premiums.

The approach of 'community rating' and by class of vehicle is used in all motor vehicle personal injury schemes across Australia and is the approach approved by the Regulator. Prior to approving the premiums of the MAIB there is an opportunity for public submission to the process which would be the forum for the TMC to propose a change to the current approach. More information on the review of MAIB premiums can be found at: <https://www.economicregulator.tas.gov.au/other-industries/maib>.

### Funding for the TMC

The Tasmanian Government is committed to assisting TMC through the provision of funding to support its representation on the Road Safety Advisory Council (RSAC). While the Government is unable to provide additional funding to support the on-going advocacy operations of TMC, I note there are road safety grants programs available that may enable TMC to promote safe riding among the motorcycling community.

We also discussed funding for TMC members to attend road safety audit training in Hobart in November 2019, and I acknowledge your letter dated 9 October 2019 requesting confirmation of the same. I have passed this request on to the Department of State Growth for consideration and I am advised the Department will be in contact with you directly regarding this request.

The RSAC is developing a strategic approach to road safety capacity building and training in Tasmania. It is my understanding that the issue of capacity building is an agenda item for the November 2019 RSAC meeting.

Should you require further information on what financial support may be available for the TMC, please discuss this directly with Craig Hoey, Manager Road Safety, on (03) 6166 3249 or at [craig.hoey@stategrowth.tas.gov.au](mailto:craig.hoey@stategrowth.tas.gov.au).

I thank you again for taking the time to meet with me to raise these important issues, and I trust the information I have provided is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



Michael Ferguson MP  
**Minister for Infrastructure and Transport**