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From: Anita French [Redacted]
Sent: Friday, 21 June 2019 11:37 AM
To: NI Legislation
Subject: Road Traffic Act - Norfolk Island
Attachments: Road Traffic Act amendments_submission_June 2019.pdf

To Whom it may concern

Please find attached our submission to the proposed changes on exhibition closing today.

Thank you
Darren & Anita

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[Redacted]



20 June 2019

Department of Infrastructure
Via email: NI_Legislation@infrastructure.gov.au

To Whom It May Concern

Re: Proposed amendments to the Traffic Act 2010 (NI)

We wish to register our strong objection to the changes to Norfolk Island's Traffic Act listed on your website 24 May 2019 and locally notified once only in a short media article within our local newspaper on 01 June 2019.

Our objection is on the basis of the justification and applicability of those changes to Norfolk Island and the failure to undertake the required process in respect of amendments to law.

In our view these changes are unjustified, are culturally insensitive, and morally inappropriate to the fabric of the Norfolk Island community.

For many families, sitting on the tray of the vehicle is a form of passenger transport. At certain times of the year it is also integral to our cultural practices that are an established element of our society and wellbeing. There are no incident statistics to validate the need for these revisions and basing same on the stupidity of an intoxicated visitor is an insult to the safety record of the practice, and our orderly and sensible community.

Giving Police authority to enter property under provisions of the Traffic Act is overbearing and will undermine the respected community role Police maintain within our society. This may not register as significant to mainland thinking, but on Norfolk Island it is important that authority is achieved through mutual respect which keeps everything within a manageable ambience.

The issue of the state of the roads despite the fact that all road users are expected to maintain mainland vehicle standards, be registered and insured, pay fuel levy and federal taxes seems to be the part of the Road Traffic Act that needs your focus. The arrogance of the regulator wanting more authority and more rules whilst ignoring their own responsibilities is overbearing and negligent.

Making things harder for people by introducing inappropriate new laws that are not applicable is amongst the reasons people have not aligned with the governance changes when they continue to prove themselves a misfit. No public transport system means that a person losing their licence is a penalty to the family that needs to pick up the basic need for transport which can also be a penalty to children. People living here without direct family or personal connections likely have NO capacity for transport in the event they can't drive which is a genuine safety issue made worse as the 'assimilation' process continues lacking local awareness and common-sense.

The lack of transparency and process in these changes is dishonest and illegal under the Commonwealth's own legislative framework (refer your own website) where requirements for the Administrator to undertake public education and community consultation on these significant amendments simply was not undertaken. These are not 'nice to do' opportunities – they are necessary and statutory obligations from the regulating side. Another example of authority wanting more control but again ignoring performing their own part of the rules.

We anticipate our points will be ignored and in that event will lodge our concerns with other mechanisms to bring to account the absolute disregard for local efforts to have your changes shaped to respect the things that matter to us protected because they make sense to us and competent policymakers.

Yours sincerely

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Darren Nicolai and Anita French