

[REDACTED]

From: Steve Mathews [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 20 June 2019 6:43 AM
To: NI Legislation
Subject: Proposed Changes to Traffic Laws

We would like to comment on the proposed changes to the Traffic Laws on Norfolk Island in respect to the riding on the back of lorries/utes/trucks.

This practice is a tradition on Norfolk Island because:-

- There is no public transport on Norfolk Island
- The speed limit is 50kms/hr or less
- There are no dual carriageways
- Small traffic numbers

We strongly object to the proposal to ban this practice. It is the traditional way families have been able to get about for many decades as sometimes the only vehicle a family owns is a truck.

Certainly, it is banned in Australia where the speed limit is 100kms/hr or greater, there are dual carriageways and the traffic numbers are exceedingly greater. None of these apply to Norfolk Island. What is acceptable in terms of risk in Australia does not apply in this case to Norfolk Island. Therefore, to apply Australian law in this instance is to disregard the unique conditions on Norfolk Island. Risk, no matter how many laws are applied, can never be brought to zero.

Norfolk Island is separate from Australia, geographically and culturally, and should have its own unique laws which best suit a remote Pacific island.

regards

Steve Mathews