



Queensland Department of Transport

Road Safety Division

Telephone:

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Mr Damien Codognotto
President MRA Australia Inc.

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Dear Mr Cogonotto

I understand that at recent radio interviews regarding the issue of lights-on you made the following statements:

"Nowhere in the world do they have any research to show that it works."

"We have not been able to find any testing done in the world to test motorcycle speed or distance judgment or back lighting."

"There is no research anywhere in the world that says it works well. There is some that says that it might get a minimal improvement and a lot that says there is no improvement. Throw it out; it's a waste of space - they haven't even tried to test speed or depth judgment."

Whilst I can appreciate that there are some public relations points to be scored in making such broad statements, unfortunately what you have said is untrue and is not supported by facts.

There has been now, for over two decades a considerable body of research into the issue of motorcycle conspicuity, daytime headlights-on, and speed and distance judgment associated with conspicuity, undertaken by reputable, well recognised road safety researchers.

For your information, I am enclosing a bibliography of references dealing with these issues which were recently published in a research report prepared by R.J. Nairne & Partners Proprietary Limited (July 1987) for the South Australian Road Safety Division. In addition, I have taken the opportunity of obtaining for you a LASORS library search done on these topics.

As you can see from the library search the research that has been undertaken is quite thorough, and some of it certainly contradicts the statements that you have been making in recent times.

In the same radio interview you said:

"... on bright sunny days it (lights-on) would reduce a driver's ability to judge speed and distance by up to four times."

I would appreciate it if you could forward to me the research references on which those figures are based.

I appreciate that the issue of lights-on is a sensitive one and that there are a number of matters which need to be resolved to ensure that when it is introduced it will be effective. However inaccurate statements made by you denying that there has been any research into this matter, does not promote objective debate on this issue and does not contribute to any objective assessment of the proposal.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely



Greg Goebel
DIRECTOR
ROAD SAFETY DIVISION