

**Submission
No 13**

DRIVER EDUCATION, TRAINING AND ROAD SAFETY

Name: P T Gough
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MR. CREG APLIN M.P.
COMMITTEE CHAIR,
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Recd. 7/2/17

DEAR MR. APLIN,

ELDERLY TO FACE TOUGH TEST TO KEEP DRIVING

- I REFER TO A SUNDAY TELEGRAPH ARTICLE DATED 11 DECEMBER 2016 CALLING FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THE INQUIRY
- ONCE AGAIN ELDER DRIVERS ARE BEING SINGLED OUT FOR "TOUGH NEW TESTS". THE IMMEDIATE EFFECT IS TO LOAD SENIOR DRIVERS WITH STRESS, WHICH IN THE MAJORITY OF CASES IS NOT DESERVED. "TOUGH NEW TESTS" FOR ALL DRIVERS WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE GIVEN THE VOLUME OF RECENT TRUCK AND "HOON" BASED ACCIDENTS.
- SYDNEY DWELLERS ARE VERY DEPENDENT ON A MOTOR VEHICLE IN THE ABSENCE OF A VIABLE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM, PARTICULARLY IN THE WEST, NORTH-WEST AND NORTHERN BEACHES. OLDER PEOPLE IN PARTICULAR NEED THE USE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE ESPECIALLY IN RESPECT OF MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS ETC.
- IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR THE COMMITTEE TO ALSO TALK TO JOURNALISTS ABOUT THE MANY SHORTCOMINGS SAFETY WISE IN SYDNEY'S ROADS. TWO EXAMPLES IN SYDNEY'S NORTHERN BEACHES SPRING TO MIND:
 - OUR SMALL BUSHWALKING GROUP HAVE BEEN TRYING FOR OVER THREE YEARS TO HAVE AN OBVIOUS "BLACK SPOT" PROPERLY SIGNED AT THE INTERSECTION OF WEST HEAD RD AND LIBERATOR GENERAL SAN MARTIN DRIVE
 - AFTER APPROACHES THROUGH DR. ROB STOKES'S OFFICE THE R.M.S INSTALLED STOP SIGNS, WITH THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE FACING THE WRONG WAY
 - SIMILARLY THE \$500 MILLION UPGRADE OF WARRINGAH RD ADJACENT TO THE NEW PRIVATE HOSPITAL STILL INCORPORATES ~~INTERSECTIONS~~ TRAFFIC LIGHTS
 - 20TH CENTURY TECHNOLOGY APPLIED TO A 21ST CENTURY PROBLEM REQUIRING USERS OF THE INTERSECTION FROM THE WAKENHURST PARKWAY NORTH STILL HAVING TO PROCEED THROUGH FOUR SETS OF LIGHTS TO PASS THE FOREST WAY INTERSECTION.

- I AM SURE THERE ARE MANY SIMILAR EXAMPLES THROUGHOUT SYDNEY. PERHAPS SOME OF THE COMMITTEE'S TIME COULD BE WELL SPENT ADDRESSING REAL RATHER THAN PERCEIVED PROBLEMS.
- WHILST IT IS CLEAR SOME ELDERLY DRIVERS SHOULD SURRENDER THEIR LICENCE BECAUSE OF ISSUES SUCH AS DEMENTIA, I STILL FIND THE DISCRIMINATORY NATURE OF THE APPROACH OBNOXIOUS.
- I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR EARLY RESPONSE TO ^{my} ~~the~~ SUBMISSION AND WOULD BE HAPPY TO DISCUSS ANY OF THE ISSUES I HAVE RAISED WITH THE COMMITTEE'S STAFF

YOURS FAITHFULLY

P. T. GOUGH (C.P.A.)

31 JANUARY 2017