

Submission

No 10

**INQUIRY INTO REVIEW OF THE EXERCISE OF THE
FUNCTIONS OF THE MOTOR ACCIDENTS AUTHORITY
AND THE MOTOR ACCIDENTS COUNCIL - SEVENTH
REVIEW**

Organisation:

Name: Mr John Hives

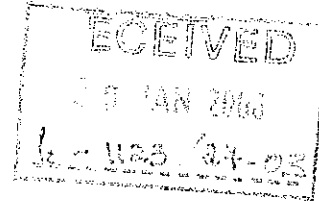
Telephone:

Date Received: 30/01/2006

Theme:

Summary:

The Principal Council Officer,
Standing Committee on Law and Justice Legislative Council
Parliament House



Dear Sir/Madam

In response to your call for submissions I the undersigned wish to offer the following suggestions.

According to a lot of comments both written and verbal from various quarters in news releases - In a perfect world we would have a twelve (12) lane super highway between Sydney to Melbourne, with all other roads "Upgraded and straightened" at a cost of millions and probably billions of dollars!

We know this is not practical, nor would it solve the road carnage. Straightened and widened roads would not stop drivers becoming intoxicated, becoming tired, losing concentration, speeding, overtaking when unsafe to do so, not giving way, not stopping at stop signs, running red lights, etc the list goes on!

When will "people" realise that at least 95% of all accidents are the direct result of the actions or inactions of the "person behind the wheel". I know of roads where an experienced driver in a well maintained and suitable vehicle could travel at 120-130 km/hr in perfect safety and other "bush" roads where 5-10 km/hr would be unsafe.

With the above in mind, I propose the following:-

- every driver should sit and pass a refresher driving test at least every five (5) years or before their driving licence is renewed.
- more "driver simulators" be utilised in the new driver training process eg. like those used at NRMA and for that matter Qantas!
- that it would be mandatory that all drivers convicted of Dangerous Driving be automatically barred from driving until they have undertaken a comprehensive or defensive driving course and resit the driving test. (They would also pay for this!)

This summer holidays just on eighty (80) people were killed on our nations roads -not to mention all those injured. Until WE GET SERIOUS about this problem - instead of making small changes each year, this situation is going to continue.

In conclusion, I would like to tell you that I am an experienced driver and have held a car driver's licence since the age of 17, and a HR licence from 20 years of age and have driven overseas and interstate. I am currently a volunteer Response Driver with the Rural Fire Service.

Thanking you for reading this submission.

Yours sincerely,

John Hives