



Queensland
Government

Hon Phil Reeves MP

Member for Mansfield

For reply please quote: ML/09/1734 and MC09.1543

**Minister for Child Safety
and Minister for Sport**

08 SEP 2009

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Cnr George and Alice Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 5 August 2009 forwarding Petition No. 1210-09 tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 4 August 2009.

In accordance with Standing Orders, please find attached my response to the petition (**Attachment 1**).

Ms Kathy Kingsford, Principal Project Manager, is available on telephone (07) 3237 9623 for further information if required.

Yours sincerely

Phil Reeves MP

Minister for Child Safety
and Minister for Sport

Enc

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Response to e-Petition No. 1210-09 tabled in Parliament on 4 August 2009**e-Petition No. 1210-09 states:**

Queensland residents draws (sic) to the attention of the House saving safe and legal areas for dirt bike riders to enjoy their sport.

Your petitioners, therefore, request the House to help support Motocross Clubs and parks with longer leasing arrangements, the training of staff to run these facilities and make road access to these areas accessible to all traffic.

Response:

The Queensland Government is actively searching for State-owned land and supporting the search for local government owned land where dirt bike riders can enjoy their activity. The Queensland Government also provides funding to support local governments and private landowners to develop their properties for trail bike use.

In the same way that they assist and support other sport and recreation activities, it is the responsibility of councils to identify and provide sites for lawful trail bike riding. Protecting existing sites currently used for off-road motorcycling must occur through local government planning schemes which should include provisions which protect long-standing existing uses, including motocross tracks, from displacement by other incompatible land uses.

Also, local governments are usually responsible for managing the leases with motocross clubs on both State and local government owned land.

The Department of Communities has recently been working to identify new sites for trail bike riding, principally in south east Queensland (SEQ). In 2008–09, detailed site assessments were conducted on 17 sites in SEQ with discussions currently underway with regard to the use of a number of state-owned or controlled sites identified as potentially suitable for trail bike riding.

The department is also:

- working with Brisbane City Council to find an alternative site for the Fort Lytton Motocross Club;
- providing funding of \$1 million to the Gold Coast City Council to construct a multipurpose sporting precinct for motor sport and trail bike riding to the north of the city;
- providing grants to three landowners under the South East Queensland Trail Bikes and Off-Road Vehicles Program to help provide camping and toilet facilities to expand existing sites and establish new sites. The department is also working with 15 other private land owners to see if their proposals for new or improved trail bike facilities can be brought forward for consideration under this program; and
- providing \$50,000 per annum for the next three years to co-fund the Council of Mayors SEQ Trail Bike Taskforce (Taskforce). Recent work of the Taskforce has focussed on identifying and addressing barriers to the establishment of trail bike facilities within local government planning schemes and clarifying criteria to be met in the development approval process. The Taskforce will also identify a hierarchy of new sites for dirt bike riding within the SEQ region.

The Queensland government is also working to improve the capacity of staff who run these facilities. In August 2008, the department released guidelines for private landowners to help improve their understanding of the development assessment process and assist them with establishing and managing trail bike riding sites. Guidelines for local government planners were also released to assist planners to accommodate trail bike riding sites within local government planning schemes. The release of these guidelines was accompanied by workshops for SEQ private landowners and council staff and these workshops will continue. Both the guidelines and the workshops have received positive feedback from all stakeholders. All three guidelines are available for download from the department's website at <http://www.sportrec.qld.gov.au/RecreationPlanning/TrailbikeridinginQueensland.aspx> .

In addition to the trail bike specific guidelines and workshops, the department also offers free community based workshops for clubs throughout Queensland. Information about the range, content and locations where these workshops are planned is also available on the department's website: <http://www.sportrec.qld.gov.au/CommunityPrograms/RegionalWorkshops.aspx> .

Individual incorporated dirt bike riding clubs may also apply to the department's Club Development Program for funding to train volunteer staff involved in running dirt bike facilities. In addition, the department is working with Motorcycling Queensland to ensure motorcycling clubs throughout Queensland can access departmental workshops on how to improve their capacity to attract, train and retain volunteers.

The department is very conscious of the need to make road access to trail bike and dirt bike riding sites accessible for all traffic. Good traffic access is one of the criteria being applied by the department when assessing state-owned land for suitability as a trail bike site.

In addition to the activities outlined above, in 2008 the department established an Industry Reference Group (with representatives from the motorcycling industry, the wider community and the Council of Mayors SEQ), principally to advise Queensland Government departments about solutions to trail bike issues. Through regular contact with the members of this Reference Group, the department maintains an awareness of issues and developments affecting the provision of safe and legal sites for off-road dirt bike riders.

Departmental contact:

Kathy Kingsford, Principal Project Manager on telephone (07) 3237 9623