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MEDIA RELEASE

AMC WELCOMES ROAD RULE CHANGES

The Australian Motorcycle Council welcomes the new nationally-agreed Australian Road Rules published this week.

Motorcycle advocacy organisations in all states and territories have been working together through the AMC to achieve uniformity.

Uniform road rules require the agreement of all states and territories who work together with the National Transport Commission.

“The AMC congratulates the National Transport Commission (NTC) for managing the process to achieve national agreement on Road Rules for the wearing of motorcycle helmets and for lane filtering,” AMC chairman Shaun Lennard said.

“We are pleased that parochialism has been put aside in order to achieve an excellent result for all road users.”

“Motorcycle advocates in every state and territory have been quietly working with their local road authorities in order to help them understand the specific problems with lack of uniformity and defects in the old rules that disadvantaged riders.”

“Motorcyclists look forward to each jurisdiction endorsing the nationally-agreed Rules, by immediate adoption into local Road Rules.”

“Many Road Rules have had unique variations between states that rely upon ‘another law of this jurisdiction’. As a result, what is legal in one State is illegal in another.”

“Consistency was the whole reason behind the agreement to, and adoption of, National Road Rules in 1999. The new rules covering these aspects of motorcycling need to be adopted unchanged, as agreed under this process.”

In particular, the newly-published national rules:

- Formalise the use of European helmets certified to UN/ECE 22-05
 - UN/ECE 22-05 provide safer helmets and a more competitive market
- Clarify that standards compliance for helmets is at point of manufacture
 - current Rules demand a helmet must be in exactly the same condition as when sold; unmarked by use and including all original packaging and booklets, which is impossible
- Remove legally-grey areas, such as use of dark visors in bright daylight, and use of communicators and cameras
- Provide uniform Rules for lane filtering
 - currently four different sets of rules exist, with considerable variation
- Tidy up some small variations resulting from unclear definition criteria

Mr Lennard saved his heartiest congratulations for the hard-working, persistent men and women advocates from each of the member motorcycle rider organisations of AMC.

"This really demonstrates what can be achieved when rider organisations and their representatives work together," he continued.

"I speak of the Motorcycle Riders Association of Queensland (MRAQ), the Motorcycle Council of New South Wales, the Motorcycle Riders Association of the ACT (MRAACT), the Victorian Motorcycle Council (VMC), the Motorcycle Riders Association of South Australia (MRASA), the Motorcycle Riders Association of Western Australia (MRAWA), the Tasmanian Motorcycle Council (TMC) and Rider Awareness Northern Territory (RANT)."

"Well done," Mr Lennard continued. "This is a great outcome for riders as a result of your high quality professional representation on their behalf. I especially thank Guy Stanford and Rob Salvatore for their work on this, not only at their respective state levels, but as the AMC's representatives in this complicated process."

ENDS

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