



Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Our ref: PET 55762

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Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr ~~Laurie~~ ^{Neil}

I refer to petition 4206-25, lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 29 April 2025, about improved side-by-side recreational vehicle (SSV) registration and support of Queensland's off-road community.

The Crisafulli Government is committed to providing a reliable, productive, efficient and safer state-controlled road network. Our government acknowledges the need to support Queenslanders to obtain the maximum utility and benefit from our roads, while staying safe and keeping others safe.

After a decade of neglect and inaction from the former Labor Government, this is now more important than ever, given the condition of Queensland's state roads and the significant maintenance backlog inherited, especially in regional areas such as those in the electorate of Hill. To that extent, I acknowledge the productive conversations and tireless advocacy of the Member for Hill on behalf of his community, to obtain better road and road safety outcomes in that region.

I note that, in general, SSVs are not designed for on-road use and lack many safety features commonly found in standard passenger vehicles, such as crash protection and other critical safety features. Since 2019, conditionally registered SSVs in Queensland have been involved in nine crashes on public roads or road-related areas, resulting in 12 injuries (requiring hospitalisation, medical treatment or minor injury), including one fatality.

Given that SSVs are currently not compliant with the safety standards set out in Queensland's Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Standards and Safety) Regulation 2021, they are only able to be conditionally registered for road access along designated routes or areas. On that basis, registration as a new class of vehicle is not appropriate at this time. Notwithstanding this, conditional registration enables these non-compliant vehicles to be able to operate in consideration of the local circumstances and on-road safety conditions in a particular area. Both the local road and landowners (for example, local government) and the Queensland Police Service (QPS) are involved in the consideration of these matters, to ensure that an appropriate decision can be made.

The introduction of a new class of vehicle registration for SSVs is not being considered at this time as an alternative to the conditional registration scheme. It is considered that expanded road access for SSVs would introduce an unacceptable road safety risk. The conditional registration scheme strikes an appropriate balance between limited road access and road safety.

Tourism and other operators are granted flexibility under the conditional registration scheme to best suit their business or recreational needs. Conditional registration is available to SSVs and other non-complying vehicles for six- and 12-month terms, with one- and three-month terms also subsequently available. The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) does not need to be provided with QPS and road owner permits prior to registration, however they are required before operation. Conditionally registered vehicles including SSVs do not require a safety certificate prior to registration. This flexibility allows operators to obtain conditional registration as required.

Roads and areas managed by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) are subject to the same motor transport rules as any other road, given road safety is still essential in these places. More specifically, legislation is in place to allow regulated, event-based, recreational access for SSVs at specified state forest locations under an organised event permit framework to facilitate increased opportunities for recreational use of such vehicles.

To ensure that the above is appropriately communicated and understood, the Crisafulli Government aims to provide clear resources for businesses and individuals to comply with laws and regulations. This includes an online resource for tourism operators wishing to provide recreational side-by-side vehicle opportunities on private property. The resource is continually updated and provides advice relating to workplace health and safety, training, registration, and other subjects. More can be found online at:


<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/running-business/whs/side-by-side-vehicles>

Further, regarding conditionally registered vehicles generally, further information is also available online at <https://www.qld.gov.au/transport/registration/register/conditional/about-conditional>. Operators may also attend a TMR Customer Service Centre or call 13 23 80 and my department will assist with any further queries regarding conditional registration.

I note the request to form a working group to determine future priorities and needs as they relate to SSVs. Nevertheless, while conditional registration continues to provide an appropriate balance between access and road safety, it is my view that a working group is not considered necessary at this time. Nevertheless, I look forward to ongoing conversations with a variety of stakeholders to ensure that our state road network can be developed to a standard that Queenslanders expect, and road safety outcomes follow suit.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brent Mickelberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

BRENT MICKELBERG MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads