

Buick Owner's Club of WA (Inc)

Submission Regarding Proposed Changes To Code 404 by The Department Of Transport



Mr Glen Hodda
President
Council of Motoring Clubs of WA (Inc)
PO Box 742
Subiaco WA 6904

Dear Glen,

The Buick Owner's Club of WA Committee has asked me to write to you concerning proposed changes to Code 404 by The Department of Transport (DOT) as reported in the CMC minutes of the general meeting held on 18th April 2011.

Our Club membership is currently 67. We have more than 100 roadworthy Buick motor cars registered, 16 of which have Club concessional licences, many with personalised plates. The proposed changes will have significant impact on our membership.

We are concerned that we were given very limited time to consult with members and prepare our response to some very important issues. DOT has not disclosed full and complete details of their plans and what is driving their proposed changes to Code 404. From what we have seen to date, DOT should be advised that we do not consider this to be a genuine consultation process.

We are also concerned that the preparation of a single CMC-coordinated response to DOT may not represent the views of all affected parties, such as non-CMC affiliated clubs.

In order to ensure a full and frank consultation process, we believe that these issues should be raised at the political level. One suggestion is that the CMC draft and distribute a suitable letter that club members can send to their local member of parliament.

In order to facilitate your early response to DOT as requested, the attachment contains the Buick Owner's Club's rather hastily prepared responses to Items 2.1 to 2.6 of your minutes. If you require further information please contact Bev Nicholson, Club Secretary, on 9405 7451.

Yours Sincerely,

Alan Haime

Alan Haime
President
Buick Owner's Club of WA (Inc)
22 Waylen Street
Guildford WA 6055

BUICK OWNERS CLUB OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (INC) SUBMISSION to CMC

PROPOSED CHANGES TO CODE 404 BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT.

2.1 Removal of “Limited” Approved Inspection Stations for Car Club initial inspections.

Limited Inspection stations and Approved Vehicle Examiners are extremely important to the old vehicle movement because a large number of our vehicles, especially veteran and vintage need specialist knowledge to ensure safety and compliance to original specifications. The existing examiners have been involved with these vehicles over many years and are aware of the sometimes complex and varied designs and requirements.

It would be envisaged that confusion and lengthy delays could be caused at licensing centres if an older vehicle was to be presented for inspection. It would be doubtful if Department inspectors would be able to start and operate the vehicle in a test-drive, therefore it is important that the AIS & the approved vehicle examiners continue to inspect the vehicles manufactured up to the 31st December, 1969.

It is considered that retention of both limited Approved Inspection stations and Approved Vehicle examiners are crucial to the continued success of the Old Vehicle Movement.

2.2 Annual Return, Inspection/scrutiny requirement for Concessional entitlements.

Annual Inspections carried out by our Clubs are believed to be an important factor in ensuring the safety and originality of our vehicles.

The Buick Owners Club of Western Australia (Inc) would prefer this condition of annual inspections to be continued and will continue to conduct annual roadworthiness inspections of concessionally licensed vehicles as should all other responsible car clubs.

We are prepared to submit both a conforming and non-conforming list of members with concessionally licensed vehicles to the Council of Motoring Clubs with a view of minimizing the work load for them.

2.3 Vehicle use for special events (weddings etc)

Our Club agrees with the CMC comments.

2.4 General discussion regarding 404 Concession

The issue of stamp duty is understood and no objections are made. Our Club agrees with the CMC comments.

2.5 Display of “Historic” wording and other wording on number plates.

We are happy with the system to identify concessionally licensed vehicles. Club vehicle examiners ensure compliance.

2.6 “Limited Use” licence plates.

The proposal to introduce limited use plates for concessionally licensed vehicles has caused great deal of concern among Buick Owner’s Club members. The Club agrees with CMC that under no circumstances should we accept removal of our current licence plates. The current use of custom

plates helps identify the age and type of vehicle to the public as well as club membership. Many of our members have gone to great lengths to get a particular plate for their vehicle. It is part of the ethos of the old car movement that members aspire to. The Department should be made aware that in many cases custom plates have historical, memorable, vehicle specific, cultural heritage or other such significance to their owners.

Some of our members have invested considerable sums of money in the purchase of personalised custom plates promoted by the Department. If the Department decides it is necessary for our movement to have limited use plates the subject of compensation must be raised. The Department is responsible for the promotion of personalised plates as an investment and the proposed change would render them worthless as in most cases they would not be suitable for use on modern vehicles. The "Great Plate Auction" of the 80's should be raised with the Department as we believe thousands of dollars were paid for these plates.

The Buick Owner's Club finds it disturbing that the old car movement concessional licensing has been "lumped" into the Code 404 category with numerous other business and unusual type vehicles. Our movement should be kept completely separate from farm machinery, mining equipment and the like.

Many of our vehicles require custom plates that are smaller than the standard issue to fit areas in bumpers and bodywork which are made expressly for the purpose of mounting number plates.

Presumably the issue of limited use plates relates to enforcement of concessional license restrictions. This is already addressed with the requirement that all concessionally licensed vehicles display a veteran, vintage, post vintage or historic plate above the registration plate both front and rear which identifies the vehicle as restricted use.

It is somewhat confusing that Department is considering enforcement tools relating to the old car movement when they have recently removed the most effective enforcement tool for all motor vehicle users to detect unlicensed vehicles being operated on our highways – the annual registration sticker.