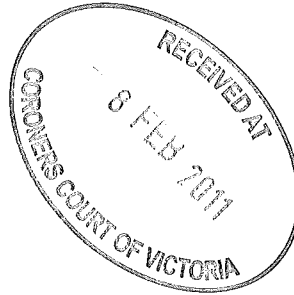


4776/06

7 February 2011

**Janet Dore**
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Dear Ms Sellwood

INQUEST FINDINGS - SCOTT PEOPLES

I refer to your letter dated 20 October 2010, regarding the Coroner's Inquest into the death of Scott Peoples.

The TAC's response to the findings and recommendations raised by the Coroner, Mr. Gerard Bryant, which are relevant to the TAC are attached.

Should you require further information, Samantha Cockfield, TAC's Manager, Road Safety (Tel: 5225 6596) would be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely

Janet Dore

INQUEST INTO THE DEATH OF SCOTT PEOPLES

RESPONSE TO CORONER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

On 11 October 2010, Coroner Bryant handed down his finding into the death of Scott Peoples. In that finding, His Honour made a number of recommendations most of which do not pertain to the TAC.

The TAC's response to those recommendations where it understands it can make a contribution follow below.

Recommendation 7:

That VicRoads conduct a review of current signage that is research based to improve the effectiveness and purpose of road safety signs used by them.

- a) **If VicRoads have not already done so, then VicRoads needs to conduct further research and undertake a review of road safety signage used to warn motorists about cyclists, in view of the matters raised in the Coroners Prevention unit (CPU) report. It is a matter of concern that there is no publically available research that has investigated Victorian motorist's behaviour in response to signage.**

The TAC is supportive of this recommendation in part:

1. The TAC is aware that research currently indicates that generic road safety signs are not highly effective in changing motorists' behaviour. The TAC's own outdoor signage portfolio aims to be directive, giving motorists specific information about their driving/riding eg Wipe off Five, or information to assist decision making eg We'll catch you before someone gets hurt.
2. The TAC has a Community Grants program which assists community groups address road safety issues in their local area. Through this program the TAC has funded several cycle safety programs. At least one of these looks at providing specific signage on known cycle routes on high speed roads. Information about funded projects outcomes is made available through the Community Grants Newsletter as it becomes available.
3. The TAC also supports the Amy Gillet foundation to increase awareness of its 'a Metre Matters' campaign, developed to raise awareness of cyclists amongst motorists and other road users.

Recommendation 8:

Greater co-operation and collaboration with local road users should be undertaken by VicRoads and local councils.

- a) **That VicRoads, TAC and local government liaise with local cycling clubs to identify training routes and times to alert motorists to the presence of cyclists by the use of appropriate signage.**

The TAC is supportive of this recommendation in part:

6. VicRoads, because of its regionalised structure, is well placed to liaise with local Government and local cycling groups in relation to the implementation of signage warning motorists to the presence of cyclists. TAC funding programs may be able to be accessed to support the development or promotion of training routes.
7. The TAC has developed, the TAC Community Road Safety Grants, to assist its work with local government and groups with an interest in road safety. This program has funded a number of cycle related projects, some with an emphasis on rider/motorist interaction. The TAC has, following the coroner's recommendation, encouraged through the Community Grants Program Newsletter, applications for grants addressing bicycling safety.

8. The TAC believes that key to improving the safety of vulnerable road users (including cyclists), is ensuring appropriate speed limits for the predominant road use of an area, ensuring drivers and riders stay within the posted speed limit and insuring appropriate infrastructure is in place. The TAC will continue to work with VicRoads and its other road safety partners, Department of Justice and Victoria Police on these issues.