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695/00081  
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**Queensland  
Government**

**10 MAY 2002**

Queensland Transport

Australian Industry Inquiry  
Productivity Commission  
PO Box 80  
Belconnen ACT 2616

**Post 2005 assistance arrangements for the automotive manufacturing sector – new enquiry – call for submissions**

I refer to your call for submissions to the Productivity Commission on the Post 2005 Assistance Arrangements for the Automotive Manufacturing Sector. Queensland Transport offers comments to the commission in relation to this inquiry in relation to road safety and environmental requirements.

One of the strategies in the National Road Safety Action Plan, which has a target of 40% reduction in road fatalities by 2010, is to improve vehicle compatibility, occupant protection and pedestrian protection. There are significant areas where European occupant protection standards are in advance of existing Australian Design Rules (ADRs) (e.g. head restraints and luggage load restraint) and Queensland Transport sees the harmonisation of ADRs with the ECE Regulations as an important process to improve the safety of Australian vehicles.

However, it also needs to be acknowledged in areas where the ADRs are world leading, such as child restraint anchorages, these standards need to be maintained rather than eliminated or reduced in a drive for harmonisation based on reduction in cost of vehicle compliance.

The harmonisation of ADRs with the ECE Regulations is also important to the reduction of vehicle gaseous emissions through the early adoption of the latest standards. This is seen as a responsible method of improving the emission standards of Australian vehicles without imposing unreasonable costs (such as design and development of vehicle engines and emission reduction components to meet unique standards) on vehicle manufacturers.

Queensland Transport supports the principle of harmonisation of the ADRs with the ECE Regulations to achieve the best possible vehicle safety and emission standards. If you have any more questions on this issue you may call Mr James Hurnall of Road Use Management and Safety Branch on (07) 3253 4424, who will be happy to help you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J McKeachie'.

Jamie McKeachie

**Director (Road Use Management and Safety)**

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