



QUEENSLAND COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES

G P O B o x 2 2 8 1 B r i s b a n e 4 0 0 1

visit and contact us at www.qccl.org.au

The Chairperson
Productivity Commission

By Email: infrastructure@gqc.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Public Infrastructure Inquiry

I write to you on behalf of the QCCL in relation to the above inquiry.

The QCCL was established in 1967 and has amongst its objectives the implementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Article 13(1) of that documents says, "Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state."

We would have thought that as an organisation usually dedicated to the principles of classical liberalism your report would consider the question of the impact of your proposals on fundamental rights such as freedom of movement.

We refer in particular to the implication of your proposal to impose "direct road user charges using vehicle telematics."

The proposal seems to involve the use of satellite navigation and similar technology to track road usage by motor vehicles.

It is traditionally considered a mark of an authoritarian or totalitarian state that citizens are unable to travel freely. It is clear that if citizens lose the right to travel anonymously they will in fact have lost the right to travel freely.

We note on page 132 of the discussion paper a reference to a privacy policy being developed by what is referred to as the "Intelligent Access Program". We are not familiar with this document and will investigate it further.

However our view is that such arrangement are entirely unsatisfactory as a device for the protection of liberty.

Inevitably this information will be a honeypot to which government and private bureaucracies will be drawn. There will inevitably be demands for its increased use. We refer to the tax file number as a classic example of function creep in operation.

It is our view that any proposal has to enable anonymous payment. That would include a system that uses a tag that does not require any form of information or enables the use of a tag that may be identified but that interacts with the payment

Watching them while they are watching you!

system in such manner that does not disclose the identity of the person to the operator.

We trust this is of assistance to you in your deliberations.

Yours faithfully

Michael Cope
President
For and on behalf the
Queensland Council for Civil Liberties
3 April 2014