

From:
To: [Select Committee on Personal Choice and Community Safety](#)
Subject: FW: Re submission to PCCF committee
Date: Friday, 5 October 2018 4:07:06 PM

Dear Committee

I would like to submit the following as examples of over reach in a modern society where personal choices are unnecessarily restricted:

1. International Drivers Licenses

These are jointly issued by the State Government and the RAC of WA.

They are issued annually at a cost of \$39 on a 3 fold paper – the size of a passport and contain the terms of issue of the drivers license in approximately 10 foreign languages- with the photo of the holder stapled to the paper.

They are an anachronism and totally unnecessary in an era of modern digital connectivity and serve no useful purpose.

I suspect they have no legal standing – but I don't know.

But far worse the fact that a person may not have one when travelling abroad or be unaware one is required in a Foreign country can and has been used by travel insurance companies to deny claims for road

Accidents. They have no bearing on a person's competency to drive any more than their normal drivers license – which must also be carried.

It would be far more sensible for the WA government to issue its driving licenses as international driving license and the terms of issue of the license be available via an app or imbedded chip that can be displayed in any language via a mobile phone.

2. Bottle Beer sales in brown paper bags

Why do we in an era of focusing on reducing packaging still require by legislation for liquor outlets to wrap alcohol in paper bags?

3. Turning left at lights

Why not allow cars to turn left but must give way to pedestrians and have an orange flashing arrow.

If it is good enough at pedestrian crossings why not at traffic lights

4. Traffic Lights

In Turkey most traffic lights have count downs indicating in seconds the time to stop or start. This improves traffic flows and driver awareness.

No need for "Orange" and no excuse or uncertainty for running red lights.

5. Speed Limits

Everywhere in Europe it is possible to drive on motorways, autobahns and autostrassers at up to 130kms an hour – where the roads have been designed accordingly

In WA there seems to be a preconception that drivers cannot drive safely over 110 kms/hr albeit most do and that major arterial roads should not be designed for speeds in excess of 110 kms/hr.

I have noted that in France, Germany, Italy, Croatia, Greece and Turkey where I have driven in the last few years all have major roads where the limit is >110kms/hr

It is also common to find police telling drivers to speed up.

If the government is truly interested in public safety it should mandate that new and upgraded major highways should be designed to divide traffic flowing (to avoid Head on collisions) in opposite directions and allow drivers to drive at higher speeds – reducing

driver fatigue.

Trucks should be required to stick to the inside lanes – so that we Australians are not made to feel as being inferior to most others overseas.

Surely it is time to get some new thinking onto the Road Safety Committee.

A case in point: today's article in the West re the head on crash involving a Chinese tourist on Indian Ocean Drive.

A modern road designed as a tourist drive that has not taken into account that many tourists do not drive on the right hand side – expect more if tourists from China are encouraged to visit.

6. Prescription Drugs

I do not understand why it is necessary to have Doctors issue prescriptions that expire after 6 months for drugs that are of regular/life time use

– requiring repeat visits to the doctor or without a consultation at a cost of \$20 – go figure) to renew the prescription where in many cases overseas the drugs can be bought over the counter.

I do not advocate that drugs, that can be used to make illicit drugs, should be made more readily available but inhalents etc – why not?

Especially where it is through a regular specified pharmacy and the pharmacist is tracking usage.

7. Overseas particularly in Europe all outlets are able to sell alcohol to adults.

Again WA seems to have a hangover from the prohibition era that restricts sales to licensed outlets.

It is irrational to determine that one outlet (supermarket) can sell alcohol and another not and adds to the overall cost to the public without any demonstrable public benefit.

Any outlet selling alcohol to minors can be censured equally well if licensed or not.

Given the size and number of licensed outlets - from vineyards to pop up bars, restaurants, liquor barns and licensed delis why not just remove the restriction altogether but increase the penalties for breaches.

I am not sure if some licensees are still required to only sell wine with food but why do we need that restriction. The onus should lie with the vendor to not sell alcohol to persons who are inebriated and if they do ban them from the sale of alcohol for defined periods or indefinitely

I trust my comments may be of assistance to your committee.

Regards

Ian Murchison