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12 Sept 2007

R. Atkinson  
Commissioner  
Queensland Police Service  
GPO Box 1440  
Brisbane Qld 4001

Dear Commissioner

RE: ILLEGAL TURNS OVER DOUBLE WHITE LINES, ETC  
BENNETTS ROAD COORPAROO

I have had no results from all other methods of complaint to resolve this matter. I now request that you have action taken to resolve this matter or at least reduce the incidence of reoccurrence.

I have over the past several years seen many, many motor vehicles crossing double white lines in Bennetts Road Coorparoo near its intersection with Old Cleveland Road Coorparoo.

When I was taking my daughter home last Friday night (7 Sept 07) as our vehicle was in sight of this intersection, the lights turned from green to red. By the time the lights turned green again we observed four drivers cross the two sets of double white lines behind our vehicle after exiting from the Quik-E-Mart shopping complex on the corner. That is four drivers crossed 2 sets of double lines during one change of traffic lights. This is what has now finally resulted in this letter being written.

In the first instance I approached the Camp Hill Police Station (several years ago) when I eventually made the time and effort to report this ongoing illegal practise by many motorist. I was informed that the existing set of double line markings were over the profile of the road centre and was not visible to drivers as they exited the Quik-E-Mart complex on the corner of the above intersection and therefore could not be booked for the offence if it could not be proven that the driver could not see the double white lines.

I then approached the traffic section of the Brisbane City Council who then painted a second set of double lines so that a motorist departing the Quik-E-Mart complex could no longer use the excuse that they could not see the double white lines.

In past years I have attended both the Camp Hill and the Stones Corner Police Stations on several occasions and made a complaint about the need to enforce the road rules at this intersection.

The issues are as follows:

- 1 Exiting the Quik-E-Mart complex from the Bennetts Road entrance and turning right into Bennetts Road across 2 sets of Double White lines. The road marking on the driveway of the shops is an arrow showing straight ahead not a left hand arrow as it needs to be. Also a driveway sign should read **Left Turn Only**. A physical barrier needs to be installed

along the centre of the road. A concrete barrier appears to be too expensive for the Brisbane City Council so I am suggesting a long row of about 20 to 30 plastic bollards as used during road works be placed from the existing traffic island north with a Keep Left sign at its northern end as a matter of urgency..

- 2 Exiting the Quik-E-Mart complex from the Bennetts Road entrance and turning left and then turning right immediately making a U turn around the end of the Double White Lines. This is how I became involved in my accident. With the placement of bollards a driver would have more time to move safely to the centre of the road before attempting a U-turn.
- 3 Turning right from Bennetts Road into Quik-E-Mart complex across 2 sets of Double White lines. The installation of the bollards and a Keep Left sign this illegal turn would be eliminated.
- 4 Driving on the incorrect side of Bennetts Road to avoid crossing the 2 sets of Double White lines whilst turning into the Quik-E-Mart complex. If the bollards were sufficiently lengthy enough this would deter most drivers from driving on the incorrect side of the road.
- 5 Turning right out of Old Cleveland Road into Bennetts Road and illegally crossing a single white line into the Quik-E-Mart complex. There is only one directional arrow marking on the road to prevent this left turn into the Quik-E-Mart complex where three such arrows are required by law to be enforceable. Why did the Brisbane City Council not paint the three arrows on this lane as required for enforcement? Maybe bollards should be places along the existing single white line to prevent illegal turns.
- 6 U turns at the traffic lights. A further short cut for not crossing double lines in Bennetts Road.

Six Diagrams of above drawn on Google Earth images included.

Maybe a Smart State device is needed similar to Red Light Cameras. With the sensor loops placed between the two sets of Double White Lines which detect motor vehicles crossing double white lines. I am certain that by the time the fines are sent out by mail several week later many of the motorist would have accumulated enough points to lose their licences and the problem would disappear. Any way such an installation would be self funding if not supply the entire Road Safety Budget for Queensland.

Earlier this year (2007) I was involved in a minor accident at this location by a motorist failing to obey basic road rules.

I then escalated my complaint by reporting this ongoing traffic problem to the Queensland Police traffic branch at Upper Mt Gravatt. I was subsequently told an inspection was made, a report was made to the Brisbane City Council traffic section earlier this year (2007).

I am aware that the location I am writing to you about is on the boundary of two police divisions and also is the boundary of two Brisbane City Council wards. In my estimation it almost amounts to NO MAN'S LAND. No money, no man power and no interest.

I have had it explained to me that there are operational problems in enforcement of traffic breaches

at this intersection due to traffic volumes, safe locations to stop drivers, the number of side streets, therefore the staff required to mount an enforcement action, lane markings, entering private property to issue on the spot fines, only a few serious accidents at this intersection etc. **If this is so, then the Bennetts Road entrance to the shopping complex should be closed for the public safety reasons until the funds can be found to overcome this issue.**

**The only legal direction of access into the Quik-E-Mart is outbound along Old Cleveland Road by left turn in or continuing around into Bennetts Road and turn Left into the site.**

If the Brisbane City Council Traffic Engineers decided that it was not safe for motorist to cross this area marked by Double White lines or for some reason and it continues to happen then they must review their decision and make other corrective measures must follow.

Readers must now ask themselves just how much they will undertake to resolve this issue at this point in time after reading this letter and not knowing what my next action maybe if I don't see any change in attitude to attend to this problem.

At the end of the day motorist are not complying with legal road markings and the Queensland Police are the responsible authorities to enforce Queensland Road Rules.

Any police officer who may need to reach a target of the number of fines issued could be assured no shortage of chances to catch up and even get ahead. Maybe even be in line for a merit badge. (of course in Queensland there are no target number of fines to be issued by police officers)

There is rarely an evening (and most daytime) that I drive through this intersection that I don't see a motorist making illegal turns. The police traffic accident reports do not however reflect the number of accidents as police station do not take or make reports on minor accidents which included mine.

I have had in mind to sit in my vehicle near this intersection and photograph and video all illegal turns made by motorists on one day. I just don't believe that I would be protected by the police if I were to be assaulted or the offender/s prosecuted. Of course when I do eventually make the effort, the images will appear on my large web site, u-tube and be supplied to all tv stations along with all information obtained under The Freedom of Information Act from all the authorities involved.. **Please be certain to make a file on this issue along with your file notes of any action taken by you or your office.** I intend to lodge a FOI request on government recipients if no action results to better understand why.

It is quite obvious that after my past discussions with Eastern Busway Project team that they have no intention of finding a solution to these problems at this intersection as the Busway proceeds. Even if this does occur it could be a decade away. The local councillors (both of them) told me that the intersection has no priority for any work. Brisbane City Council Traffic Branch and local councillors and some office staff are not interested to say the least. They can't even see a solution except for, "make your complaint to the police."

I believe that it is a Brisbane City Council traffic solution which is needed where the shopping complex must mark their driveway Left Hand Turn only and install signs, the islands are extended with bollards to only allow a left turn in and a left turn out from the Quik-E-Mart and install bollards to stop motorists who turn right out of Old Cleveland Road into Bennetts Road from then crossing the single white line turning left into the Quik-E-Mart. The placement of two more

directional arrows on Bennetts Road to make it illegal to turn into the Quik -E-Mart after a right hand turn from Old Cleveland Road.

I have resisted long enough to make a formal written complaint. **Now that I have, I request an acknowledgement by return mail from all who receive a copy of this letter.** Please inform me as to who will be investigating this issue on your behalf, so that I can if necessary contact them. Please keep me regularly updated as to the progress of my complaint and what solution are to be adopted to cause some resolution to this matter and in what time frame.

Regards

Barry Wilson

enc. Seven Google Earth images

copies to:

Premier  
Lord Mayor  
Police Minister  
Transport Minister  
BCC Manager Traffic & Transport  
Lancini Group