

## **TASMANIAN MOTORCYCLE COUNCIL Inc.**



29-May-2016

The TMC as a member of the AMC endorses their protective clothing policy, below is a letter sent out by Brian Wood Chair of the AMC's sub-committee on Protective Clothing.

Paul Bullock  
President  
TMC

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Members of the AMC already have a definitive Position on protective clothing, I refer you to the AMC's webpage [http://www.amc.asn.au/web/sites/default/files/protective\\_clothing.pdf](http://www.amc.asn.au/web/sites/default/files/protective_clothing.pdf) for its Position Statement on protective clothing. This Position Statement has been in place for a number of years.

On Friday 20th May 2016, Tony Ellis and I attended a meeting of the Motorcycle Protective Clothing Focus Group. Tony in person and me by teleconference. The meeting went for 3 hours.

The Motorcycle Protective Clothing Focus Group has representatives from road authorities and CTP agencies from Victoria, NSW, Western Australia and New Zealand. The AMC has just been accepted as a member and the meeting on the 20th May was the first we have been invited to attend.

There is a strong commitment to proceed and introduce a 5 Star Rating scheme.

The Protective Clothing project has recently been taken over by the NSW Centre for Road Safety from the TAC and things are starting to happen quickly. A consortium consisting of Dr Liz de Rome, Dr Chris Hurren (Deakin University), Tom Gibson (Human Impact Engineering) and Paul Varnsberry (PVA) have been engaged to develop protocols for testing and rating clothing for a 5 Star Rating scheme. Their draft report is due 4th July and the next Focus Group meeting is scheduled for 12th July. These 4 researchers represent the world leaders in motorcycle protective clothing.

For the draft report, the group will have initial consultations with stakeholders such as manufacturers, suppliers and retailers. Once the Focus Group has provided feedback on the draft report, the consultants will proceed with a second round of consultation with a wider group of suppliers and retailers before submitting a final report.

The consultants already know there are manufacturers and retailers who are safety conscious, have an understanding of how such a scheme will affect their business and will respond well. There are also those who won't respond well as they believe they know the industry, having made motorcycle gear for 50 years and see no reason to change what they provide to market or how

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they market it.

The AMC's application to join the Focus Group was initially rejected as it was thought it didn't represent all rider groups, as a result I approached the National Motorcycle Alliance and IRG and they agreed that the AMC represent them provided I keep them updated on developments which I have done. As the New Zealand Accident Compensation Commission is a member of the Focus Group, the 5 Star Scheme is likely to be a joint New Zealand / Australia initiative. Hence I'm currently in discussion with Ulysses New Zealand about the AMC representing their interests on the Focus Group.

There is an expectation that a 5 Star Scheme could be in place by the end of the year.

I suggest VicPol need to request an update from VicRoads and the TAC regarding the implementation of a 5 Star scheme for protective clothing,

Safe riding,

Brian Wood  
Chair of the AMC's sub-committee on Protective Clothing