



Press Release

MINISTER DALEY'S PRESS RELEASE 16TH July 2009 SAYS "ALL VEHICLE MODIFIERS ARE HOONS"

The Australian National Four Wheel Drive Council, the Australian Automotive Aftermarket Association and Four Wheel Drive NSW & ACT have expressed concern today about Minister Daley's press release "Tough New Rules for Car Hoons". The release has drawn massive criticism from car owners across Australia. **Labelling thousands of owners who modify their vehicle as hoons is unacceptable when the proper purpose of modifications is to improve durability, performance, handling and safety.** It shows a complete ignorance of the need to adapt vehicles to meet specific conditions and an intolerance of individuality.

It appears to be an arbitrary imposition of limits to modifications which we suspect is as the result of single issue pressure group views being taken as fact that modified vehicles are not safe. Yet the Australian manufacturers of vehicle modification kits are world leaders in automotive engineering and have recently demonstrated this with tests of standard and modified 4WD vehicles, **where in all cases the modified vehicles performed better than standard vehicles.**

Evidence drawn from the Government's Motor Accidents Authority indicate that in both type of accident and severity, four wheel drive vehicles are lower or equal with other types of motor vehicles. There are no published facts to support these measures in the name of safety.

Minister Daley, by taking this action, has ignored the current National Code of Practice – (NCOP) for the Modification of Light Vehicles which has been produced with RTA participation. The RTA is a member of the AMVCB Working Party which is currently updating the NCOP. Presidents of the national and state four wheel drive associations have called on the Minister as the peoples' elected representative, to take real control of his advisers and require evidence to back up the claims made in the release.

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About Four Wheel Drive NSW & ACT Inc.

<http://www.4wdnsw-act.asn.au>

Four Wheel Drive NSW & ACT Inc works for access to public and private lands for responsible 4WD and AWD touring and camping on behalf of its member clubs. It presents our views to public land managers in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory to keep bush trails and roads open

We acknowledge that driving off road vehicles requires attention to each vehicle's dynamics in order to safely operate our vehicles on road and to drive sensitively and responsibly off road. We support drivers' rights to properly prepare their vehicles for safe country driving and remote outback touring. Modifications to accomplish any of these activities must comply with regulations for registration of vehicles for use on public roads.

Our clubs provide driver training and this Association is an RTO operating and managing the training and assessment of our drivers. Most clubs have a social and community service strategy and the members enjoy volunteering to help land managers keep our bush clean and healthy for both now and into the future.

We urge anyone visiting the bush to do so with minimal impact at all times.

Four Wheel Drive NSW & ACT Inc Code of Ethics

Obey the laws and regulations for Recreational Vehicles that apply to public lands. Respect the cultural, heritage and environmental values of public and private land by obeying restrictions that may apply.

1. Respect our flora and fauna.
2. Stop and look but never disturb.
3. Keep to formed vehicle tracks.
4. Keep the environment clean.
5. Carry your own and any other rubbish out.
6. Keep your vehicle mechanically sound and clean to reduce the environmental impact.
7. Adopt minimal impact camping and driving practices.
8. Seek permission before driving on private land.
9. Do not disturb livestock or watering points, leave gates as found.
10. Take adequate water, food, fuel, basic spares and a first aid kit on trips.
11. In remote areas travel with another vehicle and have Royal Flying Doctor Service, or equivalent, radio contact.
12. Enjoy your recreation and respect the rights of others.
13. Leave your trip details with a responsible person for essential contacts.