



Hon. Paul Lucas MP



Queensland
Government

Our ref MC10508

Your ref

Minister for
Transport and Main Roads

03 MAR 2005

Ms Julia Hartman

Dear Ms Hartman

Re: The Department of Main Roads policy for resting on state-controlled roads

Thank you for your letter of 1 December 2004 seeking further clarification on a number of issues associated with Main Roads rest area policy.

I would like to stress that while the Main Roads Policy for the Provision of Roadside Amenities has been developed primarily as a framework for providing opportunities to rest and relieve driver fatigue, Main Roads also has to balance this responsibility with on-going problems associated with rest areas being used as free long-term camping facilities. In some circumstances, travellers have been prevented from taking short breaks due to high numbers of campervan and caravan operators using the rest areas as free camp sites for long-term camping. This issue is exacerbated in Queensland by increasing numbers of 'grey nomads' from southern states travelling north during the winter months. While Main Roads does not wish to dampen the enthusiasm of tourists visiting Queensland, it does have a responsibility for balancing the needs of all road users.

In relation to your specific questions of clarification, I offer the following responses:

1 Where was I supposed to stop and revive between Sarina and Townsville?

There are rest areas located in Sarina (rest area numbers 389 and 390), near Mackay, (number 388), near Calen (numbers 27 and 394), Proserpine (number 603), Bowen (number 278), Guthalungra (number 608), south of Ayr (number 632) and Ayr (numbers 31, 646 and 710).

2 If I am permitted to sleep where there is a no camping sign how long can I sleep for? What happens if I oversleep due to no alarm clock?

At Main Roads rest areas where overnight stays are prohibited, a continuous period of rest for up to eight hours between 6pm and 6am is allowed. Any prosecutions made regarding this issue would be made on the basis of 'reasonableness'.

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- 3 If I stop to sleep at a place signed no camping can I have a sleep then have a cup of coffee and a wash?**

Yes, of course, providing you do not contravene the overnight stay prohibition.

- 4 If I am allowed to do the activities listed in 3 above please explain to me what the difference between this and camping is so I can work out just what I am allowed to do?**

Main Roads does not define the term 'camping'. However, Main Roads permits 'overnight stays' by signage, at rest areas designated in the "Guide to Queensland Roads".

- 5 What evidence do I need of my arrival time?**

I do not believe any evidence of arrival time is necessary.

- 6 Will I be arrested if a Police Officer decides I have been there too long?**

No. A Summons to Appear in a Magistrates Court would be presented.

- 7 Will I be arrested if I refuse to move on because I feel too tired to drive?**

No.

- 8 How does a no camping policy assist in the battle against driver fatigue?**

Main Roads does not have a 'no camping policy'. Queensland Transport and Main Roads actively encourage drivers to pull over and take short breaks at least every two hours. Main Roads allows overnight stays for longer periods of rest where there are limited alternatives available to motorists.

I trust I have addressed your specific concerns. If you would like to discuss these issues further, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Mark Mitchell, Main Roads Manager (Heavy Vehicle Access), on 3834 2149.

Yours sincerely



CARMEN MESHIOS
Senior Advisor

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