

25 October 2021

Alice Wickett
Coroner's Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006
Via email: cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Alice

Re: Coroner's Report COR 2019 001005 - Investigation into the death of Scott Adams

I write regarding Coroner Darren Bracken's finding into the death of Scott Adams, and related correspondence to the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) dated 2 March 2021. Please note, this correspondence was received by the TAC on 23 April 2021. The TAC CEO has asked me to respond to the letter issued to the TAC on his behalf.

I was saddened to hear of the death of Mr Adams, and I extend my condolences to his family and friends. Every life lost on our roads is a tragedy and our hearts go out to those impacted by Mr Adams' death.

Coroner Bracken made one recommendation in his report. This was:

- 1) VicRoads, The Transport Accident Commission The Vehicle Safety Standards Bureau, Victoria Police, Bicycle Industries Australia, consider the circumstances in which Scott Adams died as Set out in this Finding and individually and together assess the adequacy of the current regulation of the motorisation of bicycles and their use including the ready availability of conversion kits taking into account the actual power provided by such kits vis-a-vis any purported power they provide with a view to improving public safety and the safety of people riding such bicycles.

I understand that the Victorian Department of Transport (DoT), Victoria Police and the Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communication are also responding to the letter each agency has received with regards to this matter.

About the TAC

The TAC was established by the *Transport Accident Act 1986* (the Act) to provide compensation to Victorians injured as a result of a transport accident, assist people to rehabilitate following an accident, and reduce the incidence of accidents on Victorian roads. Every year, the TAC provides over \$1.5 billion worth of services and compensation to Victorians who have been injured as a result of a transport accident; and invests in infrastructure and public education to engage with Victorians about road safety and reduce road trauma. The TAC works with DoT and other Victorian government agencies as part of the Victorian Road Safety Partnership in its road safety efforts.

Response to Recommendation 1

The TAC has been involved in the meetings reviewing the findings and recommendations arising from the coronial investigation into Mr Adams' death. These discussions, chaired by DoT included the TAC, Victoria Police, Bicycle Industries Australia and the Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (DITRDC).

These meetings have focused on the specifics of the case referred by the Coroner and also included a review and discussion of current regulation relevant to the issue. Through this series of meetings, the officers present also discussed potential future changes to legislation or policy to address these devices, including the need for a national and coordinated approach to the regulation of power assisted bicycles.



It is of note that regulation of the type of device involved in the case is the responsibility of DoT with the on road enforcement of these regulations being the responsibility of Victoria Police. The TAC however recognises the complex nature of regulating and enforcing the use of bicycles fitted with internal combustion engines (ICE).

The TAC is happy to continue to support agencies in their work to address this issue through the support of our subject matter experts however we note that it is appropriate for DoT and Victoria Police to be the main agencies responsible for any future efforts in respect to this matter.

I trust the above information addresses Coroner Bracken's recommendation. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions related to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Samantha Cockfield', is written in a cursive style.

Samantha Cockfield
Head of Road Safety
Transport Accident Commission